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NO 7195 SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1988 RAJAB 25, 1408 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Jets blast five positions in South Lebanon

Israelis bomb Fatah bases

SIDON, Lebanon, March 12, (Agencies): Israeli jets bombed five bases of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian commando group in southern Lebanon today, killing one and injuring at least 10 people, witnesses and Palestinians said.

They said four Israeli aircraft took part in the two-stage raid on positions of the Fatah group in the Miyeh Miyeh and Ain Al Dib areas near Sidon, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

Ruined

Heavy black smoke billowed from the hilltop positions and ambulances rushed to the scene as commandos dug through rubble with their bare hands in

search of injured comrades. Hospital and Fatah sources said one commando was killed. Palestinian sources identified the dead man, in his 30s, as a Fatah field commander.

Witnesses said 10 injured commandos were pulled from ruined buildings, four of them seriously hurt, and rescue workers were searching for an 11th missing fighter.

Palestinian sources said the air raid, the second by Israel on Lebanese territory this year, was apparently in retaliation for the hijacking of an Israeli bus by Palestinian commandos in the Negev desert last Monday.

Three Israeli passengers and the three hijackers were killed in the incident, which was hailed by Arafat's PLO as revenge for the Israeli crackdown on Palestinian

protesters in the occupied territories. An Israeli military spokesman in Jerusalem said the jets attacked "targets" used to place attacks in Israeli territory. He said all the targets were destroyed and all the planes returned safely.

Wounded

The witnesses said the Israeli bombs demolished three two-storey buildings used by Fatah in and around Ain Al Dib, in their first run and returned within seven minutes to hit two buildings in Miyeh Miyeh.

They said roads leading to Miyeh Miyeh and Ain Al Dib were blocked by rubble from the buildings.

The jets drew heavy anti-aircraft fire from Palestinian com-

mandos and Muslim fighters in Sidon and surrounding hills, the witnesses said.

A PLO spokesman said in a statement issued in Sidon that eight commandos had been wounded and many others were considered missing.

"The Zionist enemy committed another crime today when a squad of Israeli warplanes raided civilian targets... wounding eight fighters while many others were considered missing," the statement said.

On Jan 2, 19 Palestinians and Lebanese, seven of them infants, were killed in an Israeli air raid on Palestinian targets near Sidon and Druze-held areas to the northeast.

Last year 91 people, mostly Palestinians, were killed in 21 Israeli air raids.



Some of the victims lie on the ground of Nepal's National Stadium. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tragedy during soccer match

Stadium stampede kills 95 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, March 12, (Reuters): At least 95 people died in a panic stampede at Nepal's National Stadium today and doctors said the death toll would inevitably rise to around 175 within the next day.

"They will die because of the lack of medicine, oxygen, nurses and doctors," said a doctor in Kathmandu.

Locked

The tragedy occurred when some 20,000 spectators watching the final of a soccer tournament were caught by a sudden violent ballroom accompanied by bolts of lightning.

To escape the downpour they hurried themselves at the stadium gates, but witnesses said they were locked and police refused to open them.

Hundreds of victims were crushed by the weight of bodies and witnesses said some fainted while others screamed as they fell to their deaths beneath the trampling feet of the people behind them.

Only hours after the tragedy and before the full death count was known, dissident members of Nepal's Parliament laid the disaster at the government's door.

"This is due to the inability of this government to provide security to the people," said National Assembly member Birendra Pokharel.

He and another Kathmandu representative, Padma Ratna Tuladhar, demanded the government's resignation.

Kathmandu, capital of the world's only Hindu kingdom, has no mortuary as bodies are traditionally taken for cremation within hours of death.

Passage

Witnesses said the corridors of hospitals were lined with bodies as yet unidentified relatives.

Hours after the disaster, already described as the worst in the history of this Himalayan kingdom, ambulances were still ferrying the injured to hospitals in Kathmandu and nearby Patan.

Their passage was slowed by crowds of weeping people desperate for news of relatives.

Killed

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, whose town lost his entire police force, deplored the decision to resign.

"It must be made clear the Arab police are not interfering in any way in the uprising," he said. "Their resignation will leave a big and dangerous vacuum. There

Arafat rejects US peace plan, seeks PLO role

NEW YORK, March 12, (Agencies): Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat has rejected a US plan for Middle East peace because it calls for indirect PLO representation at a peace conference, the New York Times reported today.

Interviewed in Tunis on Thursday night, Arafat said the PLO would no longer settle for indirect representation through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as US Secretary of State George Shultz's peace plan suggests, the newspaper said.

In a 1985 agreement with King Hussein of Jordan, Arafat had endorsed the idea of indirect representation at talks on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Compromise

But he told the New York Times this compromise no longer existed because "the Jordanian government, with strong pressure from the American administration and the Israeli government, cancelled it."

Arafat said he was "definitely" prepared to make peace with the Israeli government but said Shultz's peace effort had ignored the Palestinians, the paper said.

"He contacted everybody except the Palestinians," the paper quoted Arafat as complaining.

He said without elaborating that "if this opportunity is lost, there is no other opportunity" for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, the newspaper said.

He said none of the Arab leaders who met Shultz had briefed him about their conversations but this did not matter since only the PLO could speak for the Palestinians, the New York Times said.

Arafat said he had accepted Israel's existence by accepting "all United Nations resolutions including those which affirm Israel's right to exist peacefully with its neighbours in return for

Accept

But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the head of the centrist Labour Party who has called on Shamir to accept the Shultz plan, warned early elections would be necessary if the prime minister does not drop his opposition.

"The issue is not elections. The issue is the peace momentum," Peres said. "If we can advance the peace process without elections, it is preferable. If not, we have to turn to the people."

Syria also rejected the US peace proposal. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa also said he did not believe any other Arab leader would support the plan.

"We have studied the American proposal and we think the plan as presented to us, is not acceptable. We also believe that it is not acceptable to any other Arab side," he said.

Progress made: Mubarak

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak was quoted yesterday as saying that as a result of his good offices, US Secretary of State George Shultz has agreed to talk to the PLO.

The two sides differed, however, on the venue of the meeting, Mubarak said in an interview published in a Kuwaiti newspaper.

Without being specific, Mubarak referred generally to "progress" toward a Middle East settlement having been scored during the two shuttles Shultz has made to Egypt, Israel and Jordan. He said the Secretary of State was ready to come out for a third time.

Contacted

"Shultz agreed to meet with elements belonging to the PLO," said Mubarak. "I contacted the Palestinians who agreed but stipulated that the meeting take place in Cairo and not in another place."

But Shultz, said Mubarak, told him during his second visit to the Egyptian capital that "he

preferred the meeting to take place in Jordan or in any European state."

Added Mubarak: "I told him we are for the meeting whether it is held in Cairo, Jordan, Europe or in any place."

Stressing that he was "realistic" and therefore was prepared to arrange such a meeting secretly in Cairo, Mubarak said: "Our goal is to ensure that the secretary of state acquaint himself with the extent of the tragedy and sufferings of Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands."

Mission

"What we want is that the US administration know the viewpoint of the key party to the Palestine question," Mubarak said.

Stressing that the Shultz mission "did not fail," and that the US chief diplomat was ready to come to the region for the third time, Mubarak added: "I can say there is now progress. We now have new ideas."

He urged Arab states not to reject the US proposals. "In order to avoid being misunderstood, I say 'we can develop rather than surrender to these ideas... the Americans and the Vietnamese met in Paris after a prolonged war for negotiations to reach a settlement.'"

Saying the ball was now "in the Arab court," Mubarak urged the Arabs to arrive at a "unified attitude" on the Shultz plan.

"What is important now is that coordination takes place between the PLO and Jordan," he said. "I think in the absence of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the results will be negative."

But he did not elaborate on the portents of such coordination. Mubarak said that he rejected proposals to have the Israeli-held Gaza Strip returned to Egypt "but we told them we only act in coordination with Jordan, because accepting this offer could mean that we are ready to give up the West Bank."

Acting premier

BANGKOK, March 12, (Reuters): Vietnam has appointed Vo van Kiet, a leading advocate of pragmatic economic reform, as acting prime minister to replace Pham Hung, who died on Thursday, the state radio said.

Kiet, 65, will serve until a permanent successor is chosen by the National Assembly, said a communique issued after a special cabinet session yesterday and reported in a broadcast today.

Kiet ranks fourth in the ruling Communist Party Politburo and was the senior of nine deputy premiers under Hung, who on Thursday died of a heart attack at 75, after only nine months in office.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- بی آئی اے کے طیارے کو اغوا کرنے کی کوشش ناکام
- امریکہ نے افغانستان پر سوت موخت مہم کر دیا
- یو ایس خالص نے مجاہدین کے اتحاد سے استعفیٰ دے دیا
- فلسطینی ٹھکانوں پر اسرائیل کے فضائی حملے
- کھنڈروں میں متعدد لوگ قدموں سے روندے گئے
- عراقی اسلحہ پر سفارت

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light northerly wind.
State of sea: slight.
High water: 9.00 am, 5.30 pm
Low water: 1.00 am, 12.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.00 am
Sunset: 5.55 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 25°C/77°F
Ahmad: 21°C/70°F
Fahala: 21°C/70°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 26°C/79°F
Ahmad: 23°C/73°F
Fahala: 23°C/73°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 12°C/54°F
Ahmad: 13°C/55°F
Fahala: 13°C/55°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 30 per cent
Ahmad: 50 per cent
Fahala: 50 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 40 per cent
Ahmad: 55 per cent
Fahala: 55 per cent

Tanker hit in Gulf Iran accuses Iraq of violating truce

MANAMA, March 12, (Agencies): Iraq claimed today its jets hit a tanker in the Gulf and an oil pumping station on the Iranian mainland, indicating a shift of hostilities to economic targets as a truce in the "war of the cities" appeared to be holding.

The truce could revive UN efforts to end the wider Gulf conflict, diplomats in Kuwait said today.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani said today priority should be given to a Gulf war peace plan proposed by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Resolution 598, which the council adopted unanimously last July, calls for, among other things, an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal to internationally-recognised boundaries.

Tehran accused Iraq of violating the truce by seeding a warplane to bomb Gachsaran town, in southwestern Iran.

Tehran Television, quoted a spokesman for the war information headquarters as saying the plane was "forced to flee under heavy anti-aircraft fire."

He said the aircraft was seen "dropping its bombs out of frustration in a desert area."

Mischief

The unidentified spokesman added that "the incident indicates Iraq wants to continue its acts of mischief, and the Islamic combatants will not remain silent if civilian targets are attacked again."

The Islamic Republic News Agency earlier reported that Iranian Revolutionary Guards attacked and set ablaze the offshore Al Amaya platform in the northern tip of the Gulf.

Al Amaya had been transformed by the Iraqis into a radar

Charles in seclusion after brush with death

LONDON, March 12, (Agencies): Prince Charles, back in Britain after a brush with death in an avalanche that killed a member of his skiing party, was spending the weekend in seclusion, Buckingham Palace said today.

The palace said the 39-year-old heir to the throne saw his mother, Queen Elizabeth, at Windsor Castle yesterday evening immediately after his return from eastern Switzerland, where the avalanche occurred on Thursday.

The aircraft which brought Charles, his wife Diana and their sister-in-law the Duchess of York also carried the body of Major Hugh Lindsay, killed by the avalanche which narrowly missed the Prince.

Injured

In a statement describing the accident, Charles said Lindsay and another companion, Patty Palmer-Tomkinson, who was badly injured, "were swept away in a whirling maelstrom as the whole mountainside seemed to hurtle past us."

Lindsay, 34, a former equestrian to the Queen, will be cremated next Thursday after a funeral service in the Chapel of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst.

Evade

In a handwritten statement read to reporters at Zurich airport after the royal party left for England, Charles, the future king of Britain, said: "All members of my party were skidding off the piste (the regular ski runs) at our own risk and we all accepted... that mountains have to be treated with the greatest respect and not treated lightly," he said.

He said that when the avalanche on Thursday at Klosters, Switzerland, started "with a tremendous roaring" he and three others in the group skied out of its path. The other two, Lindsay and Patricia Palmer-Tomkinson, could not evade the snow slide.

Rebel leader quits

ISLAMABAD, March 12, (Reuters): The leader of the main Pakistan-based Afghan guerrilla alliance, Mohammad Yousof Khalis, resigned today, a statement from the group said.

He said that when the avalanche on Thursday at Klosters, Switzerland, started "with a tremendous roaring" he and three others in the group skied out of its path. The other two, Lindsay and Patricia Palmer-Tomkinson, could not evade the snow slide.

Scattered violence in W.Bank

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 12, (Agencies): Nearly half of the one thousand Palestinian members of the Israeli police force in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had resigned by tonight, police sources said.

The entire Arab police force would quit by tomorrow, a senior Arab policeman in the town of Ramallah said.

The resignations were in reaction to a call by the underground leadership of a three-month-old uprising in the territories for Palestinian civil servants to stop working for Israeli occupation authorities.

Palestinian police are not involved in quelling the uprising but are responsible for matters

such as traffic and crime control. Security is handled by the Israeli Army and border police.

At least 91 Palestinians have been killed and one thousand wounded in the uprising which began on Dec 9. Scattered violence was reported in the West Bank and Gaza Strip today.

Killed

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, whose town lost his entire police force, deplored the decision to resign.

"It must be made clear the Arab police are not interfering in any way in the uprising," he said. "Their resignation will leave a big and dangerous vacuum. There

will be robberies and murders that will require police intervention."

The Israeli forces killed a Palestinian in the occupied Arab city of Hebron during a confrontation between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian demonstrators.

Zakaerya Mohammed Ali, 32, was killed during the demonstration that was confronted by tear gas bombs and gunfire by the Israeli troops.

Reports from the occupied territories indicated that the violent confrontation between the Israeli settlers in the city and the Palestinian inhabitants continued for the third day.

The reports said that more troops were sent to the city today

in a bid to control the situation there.

A 50-year-old Palestinian woman, Safiyah Ibrahim, was shot and wounded in the Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

An Israeli Army spokesman said the shot was fired from a car belonging to the Israeli Prison Service.

In the town of Hebron, troops shot and wounded a Palestinian last night after he buried a hand grenade at an Army patrol, an Army spokesman said.

Demonstrators attacked the Israeli police station in Bethlehem with stones and bottles today, Israeli radio said.

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Demonstrators attacked the Israeli police station in Bethlehem with stones and bottles today, Israeli radio said.

INTERNATIONAL

Spain offers Noriega political asylum

MADRID, Spain, March 12. (AP): A newspaper reported today that Spain told the United States it would give political asylum to Panamanian strongman Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega if it helps end that Central American country's political crisis.

Spain's leading daily, the Independent El Pais, quoted Jose Antonio Yanez saying "Spain, in a critical situation, would be prepared to receive Noriega, if it can lead to a solution" of the Panamanian political situation. Yanez is a top policy adviser to Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Elena Chi, consul at the Panamanian embassy in Madrid, told the Associated Press that Noriega had no plans to seek asylum in Spain.

Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle was dismissed Feb 26, a day after he tried to fire Noriega. As chief of the 15,000-strong defence forces, Noriega is considered the real power behind the civilian government.

Despite Delvalle's nuster by the Noriega-dominated national assembly, the United States still considers Delvalle to be Panama's legitimate President.

The United States has frozen official Panamanian government funds deposited to US banks, creating a financial crisis in Panama, whose currency is the US dollar.

El Pais said Yanez, who ended a three-day visit to Washington yesterday, expressed Spain's position to a one-hour meeting with Elliot Abrams, US Under-Secretary of State for International Affairs.



Gorbachev

Gorbachev meets US senators

Star Wars threatens arms deal

MOSCOW, March 12. (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said disagreement over US "Star Wars" space weaponry could threaten a strategic nuclear arms treaty, but he still thinks the document can be ready to sign at a springtime superpower summit.

Gorbachev told a delegation of US senators and scientists in Moscow yesterday that space weapons and sea-based cruise missiles were among issues that "if we fail to reach agreement on them, will put the strategic offensive arms treaty in doubt."

He also mentioned problems in Geneva arms talks between the superpowers, the Soviet news agency Tass said.

Confidence
"The Soviet leader voiced confidence that the strategic offensive arms treaty could be prepared in time for the US President's arrival in Moscow," Tass said.

"But the way things have been going in Geneva these past few weeks cannot but arouse apprehension. And some recent official

statements have added to the uncertainty," the Soviet leader said, according to Tass.

US President Reagan is expected to visit Moscow in late May for his fourth summit meeting with Gorbachev. An exact date for the summit has not been announced.

At their last meeting in Washington in December, the two leaders signed a treaty eliminating land-based intermediate-range nuclear weapons and agreed to work towards a pact limiting long-range strategic

missiles in time for signing at the next summit.

But Reagan told US journalists recently that he doubted the strategic arms reduction treaty could be finished in time for the summit, although he indicated he intends to go to Moscow anyway.

Gorbachev made his remarks during a three-hour meeting with the US delegation, which included California Senator Alan Cranston, Democratic majority whip in the Senate, and the chairman of the Senate

Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn.

The Soviet leader appeared at pains to stress that Moscow has not softened its opposition to the US "Star Wars" programme, nor withdrawn its insistence on linking the space weapons issue with cuts in strategic arms.

Gorbachev "reiterated the Soviet Union's allegiance in its position on a direct linkage between cuts in strategic offensive arms and compliance with the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) treaty of 1972," Tass said.

US violated accord, blames UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, March 12. (Reuters): The United States violated its agreement with the United Nations when it decided to close the PLO's mission in New York, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today.

In a written report to the General Assembly he proposed no new measures to deal with the situation pending a decision by the World Court, which is to start considering the case next month. US Attorney General Edwin Meese yesterday ordered the PLO mission in Manhattan to close shop by March 21, the date set in the Congress's 1987 Anti-Terrorism Act.

Recalling his meeting with UN delegate Herbert Okun, who informed him of Meese's action, Perez de Cuellar said he protested to the American representative and stated that the US decision was tantamount to him was "a clear violation of the headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the United States."

This accord, signed in June 1947, established UN headquarters in New York and obligated the United States to facilitate the entry and functioning of persons invited by the world body to participate in its activities.

The PLO, which is recognised by the General Assembly as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has a special status close to that of a sovereign state.

In his report today, the UN Secretary-General said that after the General Assembly acted he expressed to the United States the hope that "it would still prove possible for the United States to reconcile its domestic legislation with its international obligation."

Should that not be the case, he trusted that the United States "would recognise the existence of the dispute and agree to the utilisation of the dispute settlement procedure provided for in section 21 of the headquarters agreement and that in the interim period the status quo would be maintained."

An official source in the PLO said the UN decision was "extremely serious."

"It is a measure in support of the official terrorism carried out against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," said the source, who requested anonymity.

Egypt today deplored the US decision and said it weakened the world group. Soviet Union today described the closure as a "dangerous step."

Stay out of politics, Aquino tells Army

BAGUIO, Philippines, March 12. (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino today gave a blunt message to the Philippine military to stay out of politics and get back to fighting.

Speaking to elite officer cadets who last year rebelled against her, she called for a greater concentration on fighting skills.

"Policy is the business of the civilian authority... fighting the enemies marked out by that policy is your business," Aquino told graduating cadets who publicly backed a major coup attempt last August.

"So long as that distinction is kept in mind there will be no misunderstanding," she added.

Aquino spoke from the same podium in the Philippine Military Academy grandstand that was partly destroyed a year ago when a bomb exploded during graduation rehearsals, four days before she was to address the cadets. The blast killed four people, including two officers.

Aquino at that time called it an assassination attempt.

Her speech today continually underlined the need to sharpen the skills and fighting spirit of what is widely seen as the least professional Army in Asia.

The socio-economic conditions that the military says must also be tackled to defeat the 19-year-old communist insurgency was the business of the civilian government, she declared.

"There is no substitute for fighting. I don't want soldiers pushing papers. I want them pushing the enemy around," Aquino said.

Bhopal trial
BHOPAL, India, March 12. (Reuters): The former chairman of Union Carbide Corporation and eight others failed to appear in court today to face homicide charges arising from the 1984 Bhopal disaster.

More than 2,500 people died and 200,000 were injured in the world's worst industrial accident when deadly methyl isocyanate gas leaked from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in this central Indian city.

Italy plunges into sudden crisis as Gorla resigns

ROME, March 12. (Reuters): Prime Minister Giovanni Gorla has resigned for the third time in less than eight months, plunging Italy into a sudden and complex government crisis.

Gorla, a Christian Democrat who led Italy's 47th government since World War Two and also became the country's youngest post-war prime minister, had been expected to resign next week to clear the way for a more solidly-based government.

But yesterday he declared bitterly that his position had become untenable following a bitter argument among Italy's coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats, Republicans and Liberals over nuclear power policy.

"We had envisaged a well-balanced itinerary to

everybody's interests and in Italy's international interests," Gorla said after offering his resignation to President Francesco Cossiga.

"Things have turned out differently from what we imagined and this itinerary has now become impassable."

Gorla said a scheduled Spanish-Italian summit in Turin next Tuesday and Wednesday would go ahead unless Spain objected.

Republican Regional Affairs Minister Aristide Gunnella and Liberal Defence Minister Valerio Zanone both said Gorla's resignation was caused by a tough Socialist statement attacking his decision on Thursday to complete a nuclear power plant.

Republican Senate President Giovanni Spadolini said after a meeting with Gorla: "It will be up



Gorla in the political parties to evaluate the situation which nonetheless seems to me to be more complicated today than it was yesterday."

Protesters held during Dandi march re-enactment

AHMEDABAD, March 12. (UPI): Police today detained about 900 people who used a re-enactment of a 1930 protest march against British colonial rule to voice grievances against the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, police said.

Police did not report any violent incidents in Ahmedabad, 500 miles (800 km) southwest of New Delhi, during several demonstrations against the "national integration march" organised by Gujarat state's ruling Congress (I) Party government.

The Prime Minister, his

Italian-born wife Sooja and several central government cabinet members joined about 80 youths for the first several miles along the route of the "Dandi march" that began March 12, 1930.

Campaign

Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, the independence leader and apostle of non-violence, led the unrelenting walk for 24 days from Ahmedabad to coastal Dandi village, where he took salt from the ocean to protest a salt tax imposed by the British rulers.

The dramatic march marked

the start of a nation-wide civil disobedience campaign that led to India's independence in 1947.

The re-enactment today brought out opposition activists who demanded that the march be cancelled, saying it was an expensive gimmick. The state government planned the 240 mile (385 km) walk to highlight national unity.

"Fake Gandhi, go back," and "stop the fake march," some protesters shouted. Others demanded the Prime Minister's resignation, and a group of women gathered to criticise high unemployment. Police said they

rounded up about 900 people, who were later released.

"The march is aimed at boosting the sagging popularity of Rajiv and his Congress (I) Party," claimed Ashok Bhat, a state legislator from the conservative Bharatiya Janata Party.

The marchers were undeterred by the agitation and walked briskly, singing patriotic and religious songs. They are scheduled to reach Dandi on April 5, where they will be received by President Ramaswamy Venkatarao.

Ariane launches French and US satellites

PARIS, March 12. (Reuters): A West European Ariane-3 rocket was launched yesterday and injected two telecommunications satellites into orbit, Ariane-space officials here said.

The rocket blasted into the night sky from a jungle space pad at Kourou, French Guiana, exactly on schedule at 8:28 pm (2328 GMT), injecting the two satellites into orbit high over the West African coast about 20 minutes later.

It was the third consecutive successful launch for Ariane-space, whose rocket programme was interrupted for 16 months following two launch failures in September, 1985, and May, 1986.

The successful injection of the satellites — French Telecom 1C and US Spacenet III/Geostar RO1 — comes as a relief to French telecommunications and defence authorities and the US commercial satellite operator GTE Spacenet.

"It's been two years since the US had a successful satellite launch for a communications satellite," said Gerry Waylan, President of GTE Spacenet.

Cypriot President to meet Papandreou

NICOSIA, March 12. (AP): President George Vassiliou flies to Athens tomorrow for his first foray into international diplomacy amid a swelling dispute over the future of Cyprus among Greek politicians.

Vassiliou, who was elected last month, will meet with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou to discuss ways of ending the 14-year-old division of Cyprus.

Officials in Nicosia said that Papandreou will brief Vassiliou on the recent rapprochement between Greece and Turkey and its implications for Cyprus.

Many of the island's 520,000 Greek Cypriot majority, as well as Greek opposition parties, fear that the sudden thaw in Greek-Turkish relations will hinder rather than help movement toward a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The East Mediterranean island has been divided since the Turks invaded in 1974 after a short-lived coup by Greek Cypriot extremists seeking union with Greece.

Newcomer

Vassiliou, 56, a political newcomer, will arrive in Athens two days after Papandreou, leader of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Union, Pasok, was bitterly attacked by opposition leaders in a stormy session to Parliament for allegedly abandoning Cyprus to the rapprochement with Turkey.

Greek Cypriot newspapers today front-paged banner headlines on the Athens debates. "Greece has not abandoned Cyprus," said the top-circulation independent Phileletheros. Ta Nea, mouthpiece of the Cyprus Socialist Party said: "Papandreou ready to go to war over Cyprus."

Bangladesh rivals fight it out on streets

DHAKA, March 12. (Agencies): One man was killed and five were injured in a bomb explosion hours before voting started in rescheduled parliamentary elections in Bangladesh today, police said.

They said the blast occurred in a suspected bomb factory in a crowded Dhaka residential district.

About 15 small bombs later exploded near a polling station in the Bangladesh capital. Elsewhere political rivals fought running battles with guns and knives.

Police said they had arrested 25 people and used truncheons to disperse violent crowds.

Fresh polls are being held in 125 centres across the country where violence stopped voting during the March 3 parliamentary elections.

4 more Iran-Contra figures to be charged

McFarlane pleads guilty in scandal

WASHINGTON, March 12. (UPI): With Robert McFarlane becoming the first top aide of President Reagan to plead guilty in the Iran-Contra scandal, independent prosecutor Lawrence Walsh now turns to impending charges against at least four others.

McFarlane, 50, pleaded guilty yesterday in four misdemeanor counts to exchange for his testimony against other figures in the affair. The former national security adviser admitted to withholding key information from Congress as it investigated whether the National Security Council was supporting the Contra rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government when such assistance was banned.

The four misdemeanor counts each carry penalties of between one month and one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. Walsh presumably will recommend leniency for McFarlane, who attempted suicide in Feb 1987.

Actions

"I did indeed withhold information from the Congress," a subdued McFarlane told reporters outside the Federal Courthouse after a brief hearing yesterday.

But he defended his decision to conceal secret efforts by his aide, Lieut. Col. Oliver North, to arm the rebels: "I believe strongly that, throughout, my actions were motivated by what I believed was in the best foreign policy interest of the United States."

The development came as Walsh readies criminal indictments against at least four other key figures in the secret arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to the rebels: North, the NSC aide fired Nov 26, 1986, for his role in the scandal; McFarlane's successor, Rear Adm. John Poindexter, key North operative, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, and Secord's business partner, arms dealer Albert Hakim.

White House spokeswoman Leslye Arshat later said that Reagan "believes Bud (McFarlane) is a good and decent man."

Standing somberly before US district judge Aubrey Robinson, McFarlane yesterday became the third figure in the affair to accept a plea bargain arrangement, and the only administration official to be convicted in the far-flung scandal.



McFarlane

Walsh could act as early as next week.

McFarlane was National Security Adviser from Oct 1983 to December 1985. The Iran-Contra scandal began in late 1985, when US arms were sold to Iran with help from Israel.

McFarlane was involved in direct US deals with Iran in 1986 and undertook with Reagan's approval the trip to Tehran in May of that year to exchange US weapons for American hostages held in Lebanon by Islamic extremists.

Reagan, who has said on several occasions he did not see any evidence that laws were broken in the Iran-Contra affair, waived off questions yesterday as he departed for a weekend at Camp David.

"It's in the court right now," he told reporters.

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Afghan talks adjourn in apparent deadlock

GENEVA, March 12. (Reuters): UN talks aimed at getting Soviet troops out of Afghanistan have adjourned for the weekend in apparent deadlock.

Moscow is willing to bring its estimated 115,000 soldiers home but it rejects a US demand to stop military supplies to Kabul and Pakistan's insistence that a neutral coalition replace the Afghan administration.

"Obviously there are very serious problems," UN mediator Diego Cordovez said after separate talks with the Afghan and Pakistani delegations yesterday. "That does not mean that we are not trying to solve them."

Concessions

Clearly hoping for concessions, he told reporters that he asked the two sides to come back on Monday with firmer instructions from their governments.

Pakistan is not at war with Afghanistan but has sat down at the talks as host of three million Afghan refugees and supporter of well-armed Afghan insurgents, who have dissociated themselves from the negotiations.

The formation of a new govern-



Diego Cordovez

ment is not formally part of the UN plan being negotiated in Geneva, but Pakistan worries that without a new administration the refugees will stay.

Islamabad has apparently had little success in getting Cordovez to follow "twin-track" negotiations — parallel to the formal UN talks — to get the Afghans to form a new government.

"There's no sign of the Soviets letting him do that," one Pakistani diplomat said.

The Kremlin has couched the diplomatic, military and financial cost of its involvement in the Afghan quagmire and clearly wants out. It could withdraw without a UN agreement but has stayed with the negotiations in order to get a US guarantee that it will cut off aid to the mujahideen.

But Washington insists on a "symmetry" in its cut-off — meaning that the Russians must stop supplying Kabul.

Soviet chief delegate Nikolai Kozlov rejected the idea during a one-day conference on Thursday, charging that the Pakistan-US side was killing time and blocking an agreement.

But his harsh words did not hudge the Americans. "What he said does not change our position," a US diplomat said.

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Sudanese protest

KHARTOUM, March 12. (Reuters): At least 10,000 Sudanese defied a government ban today in march through Khartoum in protest at the presence of Libyan-backed foreign forces in western provinces, witnesses said.

The march followed persistent press reports that the long-running conflict between Libya and Chad had spilled into Sudan, with pro-Libyan militia forces active in the western region of Darfur.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, whose Umma Party has close ties with Libya, has denied the reports, saying all foreign forces have left Darfur.

Sixth Food and Agriculture Exhibition opens 60 companies taking part

By Jadranka Porter

OLD bedouin food recipes have made their way via the modern food producing factories onto the Kuwaiti market and are proving to be an instant hit.

One of these is dry yoghurt produced and marketed by the Kuwait Danish Dairy. Theyoghurt which resembles biscuits first produced barely a month ago was displayed at the Sixth Food and Agriculture Exhibition opened yesterday at the Mishref Fair Grounds by Ahmed Al Naqeb, the deputy director for technical affairs at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fishing.

Within hours scores of packets were snatched by Kuwaiti visitors.

Dry yoghurt

The KDD is one of the 60 companies taking part in the show, an annual event aimed at promoting locally grown food. Several food exporters to Kuwait from Hungary and Bulgaria have also set up stands at the exhibition.

The KDD executive manager Mariti Yli-Seppala said dry yoghurt used to be made by bedouins who fermented the milk, mixed it with grain meal

and made small biscuit-like cakes which they placed on tents to dry. The product is extremely nutritious, he said.

The company is displaying 24 varieties of dairy products, 53 varieties of ice cream and seven types of cheese, said George Samuel, the KDD sales promotion officer.

Opportunity

The exhibition is an ideal opportunity for a dialogue between the customers and producers, said Yli-Seppala. The Kuwait Agriculture Company, a 20-year-old firm which both produces and imports food is hoping to gain publicity from the show, according to the company's head of marketing research, Khalid Sabri.

The firm is a well known supplier to cooperative societies, supermarkets and hotels.

Hungary, a Hungarian poultry producing company, is taking part in the show hoping to gain an edge over their competitors from Brazil, Holland, Denmark and France, according to Sandor Kiss. But among their strongest competitors are the Kuwaiti firms led by the Kuwait United Poultry.

The KUP joined hands with three other local companies

producing fish, vegetables and meat to set up a large stand reminiscent of the traditional Arah souk.

The firm displayed live, fresh and frozen chickens. Mohammed Al Thwaini of KUP is particularly proud of the company's products from chickens fed with corn only and the new flavouring products.

Al Naqeb expressed happiness over increasing production of several vegetables, fruits, egg and chicken.

He noted that locally produced chicken and eggs meet 40 to 45 per cent of Kuwait's demand.

Impression

The exhibition hall is neatly laid out but a casual visitor is left with an impression that more imaginative displays would have been more effective. Food items are too often just piled up and some participants appeared to have little more to show than empty counters and a few posters. A visitor complained that apart from some sheep and chickens there was little else to justify the agriculture part of the show's title.

The organisers are hoping for a large public turn out at the show which ends next Saturday.



Ahmed Al Naqeb (third left) admires some indoor plants displayed at the exhibition. (Photo by Javed Basra).

Kuwait, Egypt exchange views on different matters

CAIRO, March 12. (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt Abdul Razaq Al Kanderi today said Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties have developed and there are no reservations on cooperation between the two countries in any field.

In an interview with Kuna, the Kuwaiti diplomat added that Cairo and Kuwait maintain consultations and exchange opinions over different matters including that concerning bilateral, Arah, regional or international relations.

Al Kanderi pointed out that Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations are characterised by clear goals.

Such distinctive relations, he added, are crystallised in the exchange of visits between senior officials from the two countries as well as delegations at different levels and in many fields, in addition to the participation in activities and conferences held in any of the two countries over issues concerning bilateral or Arah relations.

He referred to Kuwait's participation in the 11th conference of Islamic Researches Centre held here recently, in addition to the Arah investment gathering due to be held here on Sunday including a number of Kuwaiti economic figures.

The Kuwaiti ambassador pointed to the established cooperation between the Kuwait Fund for Arah Economic Development and Egypt, noting that the fund is financing and implementing different projects in Egypt. Al Kanderi also mentioned that there is bilateral cooperation in the field of education, economy and health.

The Kuwaiti diplomat told Kuna that Kuwait has no reservations over cooperation with Egypt and the best proof in the informational field for example is the near opening of an office for Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) here.

3m visited Jahra health centres last year

THE head of the Jahra Health Centres Abdulla Al Dhuwaili said that about three million visits were made to health centres in the Jahra Governorate last year, although only 236,000 persons are registered in these centres.

Al Dhuwaili explained that patients from other areas go to the Jahra centres for treatment in addition to many people in the area who will go to two or more centres in a day claiming the medicine is ineffective from one centre or another.

Health centres in Jahra do not have enough doctors or ambulances, Dr Dhuwaili said, adding that since area centres do not open on holidays, many people rush to the main health complex for treatment.

Dr Dhuwaili requested Kuwait's Health Ministry to provide more dentists and nurses for the Main Health Centre in Jahra.

Restrictions on foreign medical treatment

KUWAIT'S Public Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naquib said the ministry's new regulations regarding medical treatment abroad will restrict the number of patients who receive this service.

He added that the ministry submits a budget every year which includes the allocated amount for foreign medical treatment. This budget is insufficient, he said, and will not even cover the most serious cases which cannot be treated in Kuwait.

Al Naquib said that many patients use personal influence with the ministry to receive treatment abroad and some physicians use their influence to make this treatment possible for their patients.

He said patients who need treatment abroad should be referred to a medical committee which would then refer the case to the ministry undersecretary for approval. He added that

patients would be able to appeal their cases to the Health Minister if they felt they were treated unfairly.

Heart surgery for children, back and brain surgery are types of treatment that need to be done abroad, he said, but instead people who do not even need such treatment are sent.

Indian envoy meets Sharhan

THE Ambassador of India in Kuwait, N. N. Jha, yesterday called on Kuwait's Communications Minister, Abdullah Al Sharhan.

The ambassador introduced the chairman of Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd, V. L. Agarwal, who had accompanied him on the visit to the minister.

Sheikh Sabah meetings

ACTING Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed received at his office at the Foreign Ministry the preacher of the Jerusalem-based Al Aqsa mosque Sheikh Hamed Al Bitawi who is currently visiting Kuwait at the head of a delegation from occupied Palestine.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the brutal and repressive practices of the Zionist enemy against the Palestinians.

Sheikh Sabah also received Interior Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah on the occasion of his return from abroad. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashid who introduced to him the director general of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah on the occasion of his promotion.

He also received Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti.

Sheikh Sabah then presided over a meeting of the Supreme Council for Planning at which a number of issues on agenda were discussed.

Registration of students

DR Mustafa Maarafi, the Dean of Registration and Admissions at Kuwait University, said the registration office is using a system that will allow students to register for their courses at the Khalid Campus at the designated time and pay for their fees at the same time.

He added that all current students would be allowed to register for the summer semester with a maximum of four credit hours except students of the Medical Science Centre who would be allowed a maximum of seven credit hours.

Dr Maarafi said registration for the summer semester began on Saturday.

299,527 telephone lines in operation

KUWAIT'S Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan has said the total number of telephone lines in operation till Feb 1, this year was 299,527 and that the total capacity of the various ministry central exchanges was 554,527.

The minister explained that the deposit required for new subscribers for telephone services was not intended to be a burden on residents but was a matter of procedure to safeguard the ministry in cases of the subscriber failing to pay overdue bills. He added that this deposit was refunded when the service was disconnected at the request of the subscriber.

Directory

Al Sharhan said the ministry was working on a new telephone directory with information provided in a simplified manner. He added that the directory would decrease the need for the information service currently available on 101.

Telephone service would not be disconnected for overdue bills until the ministry had made every effort to check that the subscriber had received the bills, he said. He added that new arrangements were being made to facilitate bill payment.

Al Sharhan said that the letter-sorting and coding system was a major contribution toward facilitating Kuwait's postal service. The minister added that the ministry was attempting to

provide well-trained personnel to handle specialised postal services at the local and international levels.

The ministry has set up a special public complaint office under the directives of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Al Sharhan said, adding that it is constantly being developed to meet the growing requirements.

Decentralisation

The minister also commented on the achievements made between GCC countries in telecommunications which include the unification of service tariffs and reduction of charges on international calls made at night or on official holidays.

Al Sharhan said efforts were being made to fully apply the decentralisation system throughout the central exchanges in the four governorates. He added that when the current telephone network was completely installed, services would be improved in a short time to all subscribers.

Regarding administrative development, Al Sharhan said it was a slow process because of lack of manpower and sufficient time. He added that along with the administrative development process was the task of establishing job descriptions. He said the process would eliminate routine procedures and subsequent delays when fully implemented.

Mazeldi receives Polish diplomat

MINISTER of State for Services Affairs Issa Mohammed Al Mazeldi received at his office Charge d'Affairs at the Polish embassy here Stanislaw Lancucki.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with relations of cooperation between the two countries in the field of civil aviation.

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Parents blamed for neglecting their offspring

Child abuse increasing alarmingly

By Fathima Ahmed

CHILD abuse, virtually unknown 20 years ago, not only exists now but is increasing at an alarming rate due to rapid modernisation and gaining of wealth.

Doctors in Kuwait are concerned about the rising number of battered children admitted to hospitals and are now lobbying for the setting up of a society for prevention of cruelty to children.

"Child abuse, unfortunately, exists in Kuwait and is getting a wider diameter," says a leading Kuwaiti paediatrician Dr Abdullah Rashied. He also called for "strict penalties" for child abusers.

Dr Rashied, who is the president of the Kuwait Medical Association and an Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, is lobbying for the setting up of a society for the prevention of cruelty to children.

Linkage

"We have seen death occur due to severe forms of abuse and battering," he stated.

The battered child syndrome is widely prevalent in the West and associated with economic social pressure. In Kuwait, it has just begun to raise its ugly face and exists in high society families, mainly due to negligence of parents who rely heavily on maids for child care, Rashied added.

"This was never the case before," he said. "Now due to so-called prosperity we are identifying a large number of child abuse cases," said Rashied.

Children are being "physically and emotionally" abused and are suffering "psychiatric maladjustments" largely due to an



Dr N.V. Doraiswamy: look for suspect cases

"unhealthy linkage between the parents and children," he explains, blaming parents for neglecting their offspring.

"Emotional deprivation is the main cause of maladjusted children," says Rashied.

Rashied explains: "Mothers leave their children in the care of baby sitters and maids. This total dependence on others for child care has created some sort of want in the normal relationship between mother and child."

Rashied warns if the situation is not controlled then "one day it might destroy the life of an unfortunate child."

Pressure

The absence of love, tenderness and emotional deprivation has led to psychological problems.

"It seems children now prefer the company of maids and depend on foreigners rather than their mother for their emotional needs," he claims.

Physical abuse has been



Dr Abdullah Rashied: call for law to protect children

noticed in the form of cigarette burns on a child's body, feeding Chlorox with milk causing ulceration and burning the mucous membrane; burns caused by hot iron rods and bruises caused by beating. Drug abuse, says Dr Rashied, is one of the results of child abuse.

"To keep a child out of their way maids give children cough mixture and analgesics usually prescribed to the mother; thus causing dependence on drugs," asserts Dr Rashied.

Dr N.V. Doraiswamy, a consultant paediatric surgeon at the Ibn Sina Hospital, agreeing with Dr Rashied, adds: "A problem between the employer and a maid could lead to pressure. One way of expressing anger would be to maltreat employer's children."

A 12-month-old baby was treated for urinary infection for over six months when doctors at Ibn Sina discovered the presence of two sewing needles on the left

side of the lower abdomen.

"A child itself can't insert a needle. It must have been done by an adult. Doctors must be aware of such conditions so that they can identify suspect cases," says Doraiswamy.

Like Dr Rashied, Doraiswamy insists "steps must be taken now to prevent the spread of the problem."

"Nobody suspects abuse; so no one looks for it," Doraiswamy says.

Doctors are being urged to look for "injuries that don't fit the clinical history given by adults."

Cauterisation

Sexual abuse of children, they claim, does not exist mainly due to religious and social factors governing the society. "Nobody does such things in Kuwait," claims Doraiswamy.

Cauterisation, using hot rods to cure an illness, a practice common among bedouins, is an "unpardonable form of battering," says Dr Rashied.

"It is a fallacy that cauterisation cures disease. That form of treatment may actually cause more complications," says Rashied.

Penalties

He has called for "strict penalties" for child abusers, urging the government to enact a law to punish them. "We must identify the people who abuse children and mete out severe punishment to discourage would-be abusers," he asserts.

The society for the prevention of cruelty to children is still an idea that is being supported by several paediatricians and leading Kuwaiti personalities. Rashied says if such a society is formed it would be possible to punish offenders.

In the meantime, Rashied suggests radical changes in society; more responsible parents; less dependence on maids and careful handling of the problem.

"The problem of child abuse and battering must be handled cautiously and delicately with major responsibility on those who care for our kids," says Rashied.

Bond

Rashied advocates breast feeding as a means of "creating a closer bond between mother and child."

He suggested that parents must "screen maids and evaluate her background, mental and physical health and linguistic capability" before employing her at home.

"Our kids are growing up without learning Arabic," he complains.

Child abuse in the Arab world was discussed at a recent symposium organised by the Arab Medical Society with doctors urging better treatment of children, particularly those looked after by maids.

In a paper, "Child Abuse in Kuwait", published by the Kuwait Medical Association, Dr Sylvia Shuaib, another paediatrician, wrote: "The condition is known in Arab countries but is not taken seriously... and traceable back to the step-mother."

There are no statistics to show the prevalence of child abuse and the battered child syndrome in Kuwait but doctors like Rashied believe that the "incidence is rising."

"It can be minimised by creating awareness among parents and by enforcing strict punishments for abusers," says Rashied.



The Undersecretary of Kuwait's Information Ministry, Abdul Aziz Al Jaafar (left), yesterday met with the chairman of the Arab World Institute based in Paris, (second, left). Other officials attended the meeting.

Seats abroad for dentistry students

WASHINGTON, March 12, (Kuna): A meeting of two Kuwaiti Education Ministry officials, an official from the Ministry of Health and 16 deans of Medical Colleges in the US and Canada took place recently in Canada.

The meeting discussed a possible agreement on organising the reservation of a number of seats for Kuwaiti students studying dentistry abroad, according to a release today by the cultural division of the Kuwaiti embassy here.

The release said that the Cultural Counselor here, Dr Musaed Al Haroun, Director of Scholarships at the Ministry of Education in Kuwait, Abdullah Al

Sane'a and Dr Jawad Behbani, from the Ministry of Health, in addition to the sixteen US and Canadian deans, met in Montreal on the sidelines of the dentistry conference which ended on March 10.

The meeting discussed a draft agreement drawn by the Ministry of Education in Kuwait on reserving a number of seats for Kuwaiti students studying dentistry in the US or Canada in those universities.

The meeting, the release said, was productive and fruitful, and the participants agreed to study the proposal more carefully and provide their final views in the near future.

Teachers to be employed on temporary basis

ABDUL Aziz Al Jarallah, the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs at Kuwait's Education Ministry, said the Civil Service Commission had approved the ministry's recommendation to hire teachers to work on a temporary basis to fill vacancies in specific areas.

Al Jarallah said the current teacher shortage was the result of a large number of teachers who left the country on study or personal leave.

Teachers employed on a temporary basis would be assigned no more than eight classes per week, he said, adding that their salaries would not include exam preparation or checking.

He said that teachers recommended for employment in this capacity included those who had retired, resigned or had been on extended unpaid study leave. A list of recommended teachers has been submitted to the ministry, he added.

UAE delegation

ABU DHABI, March 12, (Kuna): Defense Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum is scheduled to pay a visit next Monday to Oman on an invitation from Omani State Minister for Defence Affairs Al Muatasim Bin Hmoud Al Bosaidi.

A high-ranking delegation will accompany the UAE minister during his three-day visit.

Turkish envoy

The Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Hamoud Al Rqobah received at his office yesterday the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait.

New premises to be built for Safat Post Office

No plan to raise postal rates

THE assistant undersecretary for postal affairs at Kuwait's Communications Ministry, Ibrahim Al Abdul Razzak, has said that the ministry has no intention of increasing the postal rates.

He said that new premises will be built for the Safat Post Office. He added that a postal services complex will be built in the south Surra area, and new post offices at Surra, Wahah, Sahab Al Salem suburb, Fintas, south Sabahiya and Jahra.

He said the postal department suffered from a shortage in some categories of employees, such as clerks, drivers and postmen. He said that many employees had resigned, while some had been transferred to other places to take over posts commensurate with their qualifications.

Regarding postal rates, he told a local newspaper that the current postal rates had been fixed after the Hamburg conference held in 1984. He said that postal rates might be adjusted according to recommendations to be taken at the conference of the International Postal Union to be held in 1989 in Washington.

Post boxes Al Abdul Razzak said that the number of post boxes was about 70,000 and he hoped to provide a total of 90,000 post boxes soon.

He said the postal code system was introduced on March 1, 1986, following an intensive information campaign.

Asked about measures to upgrade the postal services, he replied that the department was striving to use the latest equip-

ment and to provide training courses for employees.

He said the Muntaz postal service would be developed to meet future needs.

He added that the department would mechanise the postal services and use the computer and microfilm.

He said the department would continue to exchange visits with other Arab postal departments in general and those of GCC countries in particular.

Cooperation He praised the cooperation between Kuwait and other GCC countries in postal matters. He said that Kuwait was a founder member of the Gulf Postal Authority established in 1977.

The assistant undersecretary for financial affairs, Jassem Al Wazzan, said that the budget for the post and telephone departments was about KD64 million, and revenue was estimated at about KD5 million.

About KD68 million was collected for telephone services during the 1986-87 fiscal year, while amounts due at the beginning of the 1987-88 fiscal year were estimated at about KD25 million. He said the ministry was amortising the amounts due from some subscribers in view of their financial situation in order to enable them to settle the amounts.

Unified prices He praised the cooperation between GCC states in the field of unified prices for telecommunication and other services, such as tele charges, cables, TV programmes, broadcasts and

radio photographs.

The assistant undersecretary for administrative affairs, Saqar Al Sudan, said his department would not hesitate to question employees violating the ministry's regulations and procedures, and appropriate action would be taken. He added that senior officials should be warned by the minister if they were found guilty.

The assistant undersecretary for transport affairs, Mohammed Al Anjari, said that talks were held with the Romanian delegation that visited Kuwait recently regarding implementation of the agreement signed between Kuwait and Romania.

Overland He added that the talks covered overland transport, including the exchange of information on the development of international overland transport between the two countries in 1986-87 and the development prospects for the year 1988-89.

Al Anjari said the ministry and the Romanian delegation also reviewed the transport problems facing the two countries, and both sides agreed to increase the trade exchange between Kuwait and Romania.

Speaking about cooperation between Kuwait and Turkey in the transport field, he said the two countries had made a transit agreement in 1970. This was meant to simplify procedures regarding passengers and goods.

He said the two countries held joint meetings, and the last one took place in December 1987.

Arab World Institute chief visits Kuwait

INFORMATION Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Jaafar met yesterday with president of the Paris-based Arab World Institute (AWI) Paul Cartonne.

Cartonne, who arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit to the country, will also be meeting HH the Amir, acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah in addition to several ministers.

In his meeting with Jaafar, the French pro-Arab leader discussed the activities of AWI and its role in enhancing cultural and arts links between France and the Arab countries.

The French visitor will hold a press conference here tomorrow to brief the media on the activities of his organisation.

AWI was officially opened two months ago. Kuwait was a major donor of the project which took many years before it became a reality.

Shaheen meets Arab League delegation

THE Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen met yesterday with a delegation from the secretariat of the Arab League that groups Assistant Secretary General Al Akhdar Al Ibrahim and Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council and a member of Eastah Central Committee Salim Al Zanoon.

Ibrahim told reporters that the visit to Kuwait is the beginning of a Gulf tour that has come in implementation of a resolution adopted by the extraordinary meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis which formed a seven-man ministerial committee to follow up the uprising of the Palestinian people under occupation.

He added that the committee, in its turn, formed delegations from the PLO and the League secretariat to visit the Arab countries and to discuss the issue of bolstering the uprising.

He further said that other delegations will visit other Arab countries within the same context, adding that the meeting today with Shaheen will be followed by meetings with other officials before leaving Kuwait.

OIC foreign ministers to meet in Amman

AMMAN, March 12, (Kinhua): The 17th foreign ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is due to be held in Amman from March 21 to 25, Secretary-General of Jordan's Foreign Ministry Nabih Al Nemer announced here yesterday.

The meeting will discuss the Palestinian issue, the situation in Jerusalem now under Israeli occupation, the Iraq-Iran war, the Afghan problem and other Middle East issues, Al Nemer told the Jordan news agency.

Al Nemer, who is also the coordinator of the forthcoming meeting, said there would be some economic, financial and cultural items on the agenda and Jordan will do all it can to make the conference a success.

He expected that all the member states of the OIC will take part in the meeting. Jordan's Foreign Ministry has so far received no rejection, he said.

Iran, a member state of the OIC, did not take part in the OIC summit meeting in Kuwait last year. It is not known whether it will take part in the forthcoming meeting this year.

US official THE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Osaimi yesterday received in his office the visiting American official George Vest.

During their meeting the two officials exchanged views on various matters of bilateral interest to the two countries.

Vest is the officer in charge of administrative affairs in the US State Department.

Qaboos receives message from Kurt Waldheim

MUSCAT, March 12, (Kuna): Sultan Qaboos Bin Said today received a written message from President Kurt Waldheim of the republic of Austria. Oman news agency reported.

The message was delivered to the Deputy Prime Minister for legal affairs Sayyid Fahd Bin Mahmoud Al Said by Dr Tomas Klestil, envoy of President Kurt Waldheim.

Dr Klestil who is also secretary general of Austria's foreign ministry conveyed the greetings of the Austrian president to Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and the Omani people.

Bilateral relations and ways of expanding cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting.

They also reviewed current international issues and topics of common concern.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah also received Austrian envoy Tomas Klestil who delivered him a written message from his Austrian counterpart.

During the meeting they reviewed bilateral ties and ways of further strengthening them.

Director of the European department at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Abdullah Bin Ali Al Nagar and the Austrian Ambassador to Oman, were present during the meeting.

Education conference

ABDULLAH AL DOUB, the secretary of the 18th Education Conference to be held at the Kuwait Teachers Society from March 26 to 31, said a variety of activities are planned for the conference.

The technical committee has received a number of papers from education specialists to be discussed at the conference, he said, and a book exhibit is planned.

The technical committee will announce the winners of the research and slogan contests and select winners of the poetry contest for teachers.

The information committee is preparing a bulletin which will describe the conference events and provide a summary of the papers to be studied.

Psychological factors main cause of sterility

PSYCHOLOGICAL factors are one of the main causes of sterility in women, according to a medical psychologist, Dr. Majda Al Badrani.

She told a local newspaper that at least 25 per cent of cases were not due to organic causes.

She also said that millions of husbands and wives were impotent or sterile.

She said that recent advances in finding the causes of sterility had resulted in good news for those incapable of having children, and some permanent impotence cases had more hope than before.

She said specialists were looking forward to the day when it would be possible to transplant ovaries, and said that the number of test tube babies was increasing day by day.

She said that sterility might be due to purely psychological

reasons. For instance, a woman might fear pregnancy. This was not the case with women only, because a man might fear the responsibility of having a child of his own and this could cause temporary impotence. This required hormone treatment.

Ignorance Dr Al Badrani explained that a psychological shock could have a direct effect on the womb, and emotional immaturity might cause contractions. She said that ignorance of their sexual organs made some women neglect swellings of the womb. Unsatisfactory sexual intercourse would cause dryness of the vaginal passage.

All these were reasons for impotence or sterility.

She urged women to take regular tests to avoid sterility, and stressed that psychological factors were more likely to cause sterility among younger women,

especially those who did not have children. She added that the psychological effects could be greater for women with unresponding partners.

She said this problem would increase in size, depending on the type of society and environment.

She explained that psychological factors would play a greater part in societies that did not believe in preventing pregnancies or in family planning, but psychological factors played a lesser role in societies in which women were allowed to work and had more freedom.

She said that psychological conditions could lead to false pregnancy.

She urged impotent partners to visit doctors and take all necessary tests.

She said that anti-pregnancy pills may dampen or increase the sexual desire of women.

Seminar on children's nutrition opens

A SEMINAR on children's nutrition was opened yesterday by the assistant undersecretary for drug affairs, Bader Al Mudal, on behalf of the Health Ministry, Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, at the Sabah Hospital.

The opening was attended by ministry officials and a large number of people.

In his opening speech, Al Mudal said that such seminars would enrich the public's information on children's nutrition and would supply children's specialists with new methods of treatment based on good nutrition.

He stressed that the Health Ministry was making every effort to improve the medical services in the country, and this made Kuwait the best medical centre in the Gulf and the Middle East.

He said that nutrition was one of the methods of treatment and of fighting diseases.

The director of the food and nutrition department, Dr Fawziya Al Awadi, said that the main



Bader Al Mudal

topics at the seminar would include breast-feeding, kidney troubles among infants, malnutrition diseases in childhood, and anaemia and diabetes in children. A number of local visiting specialists will give lectures on various subjects.

The seminar will continue until March 17. It takes place from 8 am to 4 pm.

Arab Labour Conference condemns Israeli actions

BAGHDAD, March 12, (Kuna): The Arab Labour Conference at the end of its 16th session yesterday endorsed a unified plan calling for the protection of the rights and freedom of labourers and employers in the occupied Arab territories.

The conference bitterly condemned the Zionist brutal actions which stopped thousands of Arab workers from going to their work, and violated the international labour organisation's resolutions.

The meeting's 16th session has issued a communique affirming the organisation's full support to the Palestinian popular uprising,

and denouncing the terrorist actions of the occupation authorities.

They discussed the cooperation between the international and Arab Labour Organisations, and urged the Arab states to participate in the anti-apartheid conference to be held in Harare on April 3, and to submit developments and the Zionist practices against the Palestinian people to the conference.

The conference also assigned the director-general of the Arab employment office to continue contacts with Syrian authorities to set free the Palestinian syndicate members who are imprisoned there.

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KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Eng. & Petroleum
Announcement

The Department of Civil Engineering of Kuwait University is pleased to invite engineers and researchers to a lecture titled:

"Recent Advances in Environmental Geotechnology"

Speaker: Professor Tuncer Edil
University of Wisconsin, U.S.A.
Date: Monday, March 14, 1988
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Kuwait University Faculty Club — Shuwaikh.

WHAT'S ON

MUSIC

Piano Concert
Well-known pianist Ramzi Yassa will give a recital on Tuesday, March 15, at the Kuwaiti Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A. Yassa's repertoire ranges from Bach to Berg and includes works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and Mozart.

Rock 'n' Romance

Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

THEATRE

Kuwait Little Theatre

KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

CINEMA

British Council

Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie, whose happy life with his widowed American mother is transformed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown on March 16, 6 pm and March 17, 10.30 am.

This month's feature film for adults is entitled **The Emerald Forest**. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20.

Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 2515512.

SOCIAL

Contact
The next meeting of the ladies' information group, contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella
The '88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year. Don't leave children at home. For reservations contact Connie — 3947693; Annette — 3903480 before March 15.

Luncheon Party
Friends of Great Ormond Street Hospital Lunch will be held on March 17, 1.30 pm, at Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact 4831339; 5636675.

EDUCATION

Open-Evening
There will be an open evening on March 15, 5-8 pm, at the British Council in Mansouriyah for anyone interested in studying Business Administration, Management and Finance in Britain. A wide range of information will be on display with details of courses to suit both students and professionals. (Note: If either date is declared a public holiday then its alternative date will be on March 16). For details phone 2515512.

SPORTS

Sports Festival for Children
A sports festival for Bangladesh children will be held on April 8. For details contact 4840759; 4710306; 5716586. All Bangladesh children are welcome.

Kuwait Rally
The 1988 Kuwait International Rally will be held on March 17 and 18. The rally starts on Thursday (March 17) at 1 pm from the SAS Hotel carport, and the first night's action will be in the Jahra/Doha areas. Main Control will be at Entertainment City, and the cars can be seen there between 4.30 pm and 6 pm. The cars return to SAS at 10 pm, and the rally resumes at 9 am the next morning. Stages will be in the Maqwa and Sulaybiya areas and the cars can be seen at Main Control from 12.30 pm. The rally finish is at the SAS Hotel at 5.15 pm.

Cricket Match
The BA Speedbird Trophy Cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and India will take place on March 15 at the KOC, Ahmadi, new ground. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

GOING PLACES

Rock show with a romantic touch

A ROCK show with a romantic touch kicks off at a local hotel from Sunday next week. The show has been put together by musical directors June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, who last year presented the highly successful Rock Me Amadeus, featuring music by Mozart. This year's concert titled "Rock 'n' Romance" features Chopin's music.

"A careful selection of rock songs and the music of Chopin will give the show a romantic touch," said Phil Thomas.

June Stevenson will play three well-known piano pieces by Chopin and sings several songs including Candle in the Wind, MacArthur Park and Flashdance. She will also sing choreographed rock songs.

Des Cross, a well-known singer in British musical circles, returns to the stage after a brief absence. Des will perform a selection of songs featuring extracts from the rock opera Tommy by The WHO.

A classic rock number, sung by Phil Thomas, promises to give a dramatic start to the concert. The six-member band will give a fuller sound "to give the songs a truer reproduction". The band features Ammar Al Binny, Brian Mitchelson, Alex



June Stevenson: rehearsing a song for the concert

Heynes and Malcolm Macdonald; all are experienced performers having performed in Juk-box 4.

Phil Thomas says: "attention has been given to the staging and lighting to give the songs a more visual impact and create the atmosphere of a rock concert."

The show opens on Sunday, March 20, at the Regency Palace Hotel and runs for five nights. (For reservations see What's On).



Phil Thomas: playing the drums



Malcolm: concentrates on a musical note

Birthday tribute

LONDON, March 12, (Kuna): An exhibition to celebrate the 80th birthday of one of the world's greatest portrait photographers, Syrian-born Armenian Yousuf Karsh, has opened in London.

Entitled "Karsh: A Birthday Celebration," the exhibition running until April 24 at London's Barbican Centre features over 150 works by the photographer and will tour Europe with displays in Paris, Geneva, Zurich and Frankfurt.

Born in 1908, Yousuf Karsh was taken to Canada in 1924. He settled in Ottawa and began his professional career in 1932.

He shot to fame in December 1941 with a remarkable portrait of the then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, which immortalised his "hulldog" image.

Karsh has said "The endless fascination of the people I photograph lies for me in what I call their inward power. It is part of the elusive secret that hides in everyone, and it has been my life's work to try to capture it on film."

Personalities that Karsh has captured on camera include former French President Charles De Gaulle, US Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy, former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld as well as writers, film stars, artists and prominent musicians and scientists.

KCC holds concert

THE Kuwait Cultural Centre (KCC) last week held an informal concert featuring music by Handel, Brahms, Beethoven, Paganini and Tchaikovsky. Local performers took part in the "informal evening" as part of efforts to promote music.

The performers played before a select audience entertaining them with Handel's 3 Sonata No. 1, A-Major and Brahms's Ungarische Tanze. The string quartet played music by David Stone, Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile and Beethoven's Quartet op. 18 No. 1. The performers were Synichi Kimura, viola; Pshamek Niedzwiecki, violin; Cesary Owerowicz, piano; Mrs. Frida Strange, violin cello and Dragan Marcovic, violin teacher at the centre.



Pianist Cesary performing a number.



● The Vice-President of Meridian for the Middle East area, Rudolph Jurcik, is on a brief familiarisation visit to Kuwait. A special luncheon party was held by the management of Kuwait Meridian Hotel to welcome Jurcik. Picture shows Jurcik with Kuwait Meridian's General Manager Andreas Matmulier and other hotel executives.

Russian flavour

World Service Visits Moscow
The World Service has a Russian flavour this week with both live and recorded programmes coming from Moscow and conveying a little of the atmosphere of Mr Gorbachev's Soviet Union. Amongst other programmes relaying the flavour of Soviet life will be John Peel, focussing on the Russian approach to rock music, and the Science Unit's Discovery, featuring Russian space and astronomy research. (March 15, 06.40 hrs; 31.35m; March 17, 11.30 hrs; 22.7 MW; March 18, 16.30 hrs; 21.2 MW) Play of the Week: Remembrance

"I've met a nice man, a good

man. We're both widowed, we've both lost a son. We've our suffering in common. It brought us together. Theresa and Bert, both in their 60's, drawn together by the troubles in Northern Ireland, find their families don't share their feelings of happiness. Theresa is a Catholic and Bert a Protestant and their children can't forget that. (March 13, 14.30 hrs; 16.59 m)

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Monster Shark
Starring: Valentine, Michelle

Al Haura
Al Mal'oub (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmood Yaseen, Imaan

Drive-In
Shahab Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)
Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Alim, Mirvat Ameen

Al Firdous
Maang Bhano Sajna (Hindi)
Starring: Jeeendra, Rekha, Moushumi

Fahad Open-Air
Mere Hamdam Mere Dost (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Irupatham Nontandu (Malayalam)

Al Jahra
Kirayedar (Hindi)

Granada
Hifazat (Hindi)

Sulabikhat
Hanna K.

Al Jeeb
Oridathu (Malayalam)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.40 am
Zuhr	11.57
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.56
Isha	7.12

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News Via Satellite
3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'lach: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
4.25 Ghadab Al Sahara: part six of Arabic serial; starring Abdul Rabman Al Rish, Sahar Rami, Talhath Hamdi
5.30 Al Manahal: children's serial, featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab
6.00 Songs and Music
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Documentary
7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nahd: poetry session
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic

9.50 Suraj Al Simt: part 12; Arabic serial, featuring Sana JAMIL, Hamdi Gbaitb, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmad Badr.
10.50 Variety Show featuring singer Salwa Outrait and her group performing at the 1987 Jerash Festival
11.50 News Summary
11.55 World News Via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/Close, down

KTV 2

3.30 Opening and Holy Quran
3.40 Cartoons
3.45 Ninth Arab-Gulf Fnnthall Tournament: Qatar vs Iraq
5.45 Saudi Arabia vs UAE
8.00 News in English

8.40 Hot Shots: "Riot." Amanda is jailed for writing on a taboo subject.
9.30 Foley Square: "24 Hours." Alex is in trouble and welcomes help from someone she does not expect to assist her.
10.00 TV Bloopers
10.30 Best-Seller: Space: Part 5 traces the development of space technology in the 1960s.
11.30 Report from Saudi Arabia on the Arab Gulf Football Tournament
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and things are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

Morning
0800 Opening
0805 Songs and Music
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Bands With A Beat
0930 Songs and Music
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1030 Pick of the Pop
1100 Closedown
1330 News on FM Service

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behereen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Geet-Kahani
2100 Closedown

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio News
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)
0100 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance cont.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families
0200 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 Canvey Row
30 Album Time
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Yes Mister
0400 Newsdesk
30 Capriccio (ex 27th The Seven Ages of Man
45 Reflections
50 Financial Review
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Chain Reaction (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent

45 Book Choice
50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure's Yours
0900 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 Science in Action
45 Education Today (ex 6th A Hobbs — or a Way of Life)
1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
15 Classical Record Review
30 Religious Service
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)
1200 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance cont.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 The Sandi Jones Request Show including at 1400 News Summary
1430 Yes Mister
1500 Radio Newsdesk
15 6th and 13th International Recital; 20th and 27th Concert Hall
1600 World News
09 Commentary
15 Why Should This Happen to Me? (ex 6th The Desert Diary)
45 Letter from America

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LOVE truth, but pardon error — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Shamir playing for more time

By Paul Taylor

TEL AVIV, (Reuters): Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is playing for time.

Beset by a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and a US peace initiative on the future of the territories unacceptable to his right-wing Likud bloc, he is stalling.

"Why should Israel be first to say no?" one of the premier's close advisers said.

Aides and political analysts say Shamir hopes his Arab adversaries, and if necessary Israeli voters, will save him from having to make the unpalatable concessions outlined in US Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East peace plan.

In the past week, Shamir has refused a quick answer to the American proposals, blocked an inner-cabinet vote on the plan and rejected talks on an early general election to break Israel's political deadlock.

He has postponed everything until after he returns from what seem certain to be tough talks with President Reagan and Shultz next week.

Opposers
Yitzhak Shamir is not interested in appearing in Washington as the prime minister who rejected the American initiative," said the independent daily Ha'aretz.

"He does not want Israel to jump to the head of the opposers. He wants to leave this honour in the hands of King Hussein of Jordan," it said.

However Shamir has made clear his hostility to key elements of the plan — an international conference to open Arab-Israeli negotiations, an accelerated timetable for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories and early talks on the final status of the areas.

Even if he were inclined to accept some of Shultz's ideas for the sake of Israel's \$3 billion-a-year friendship with Washington, aides say it would be a disaster for Shamir to risk splitting Likud's electorate in a general election year.

His right-wing rivals, Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy, lie in wait, ready to

pounce on any softening in the premier's position.

Some analysts say Shamir may be stalling peace moves to give the Army time to put down the Palestinian uprising by force, although this has failed for the last 13 weeks.

The analysts say Shamir, a tactician rather than an innovator, has at least three other grounds for buying time.

● A united Arab rejection of the US plan, already attacked by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would greatly ease American and world pressure on him and on Israel.

● A continued deadlock at home could force Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to lead his Labour Party out of the government, leaving Likud at the helm before a general election.

● With signs that the mood in Israel is swinging to the right in reaction to the Palestinian unrest, Shamir stands to gain by delaying an election at least until the summer.

Election

Likud hopes to benefit from the addition of 18-year-old first-time voters on the electoral roll in July, according to opinion polls which show the shift to conservative nationalism is strong among young people.

Shamir has authorised a Likud member of parliament, David Magen, to submit a private member's bill to hold elections on July 29, a date unacceptable to Labour, many of whose middle-class voters would be out of Israel on summer vacation.

Peres would prefer an election earlier, preferably in May, but has neither the parliamentary majority to force one nor the nerve to walk out of the government, political sources say.

The Labour movement daily newspaper Davar commented: "The head of half the government (Shamir) is trying to buy time, but this profit is really a loss. Israel has already paid a high price for this sort of profit in the past."

The paper warned that the passage of time would make Arabs no more inclined to accept the status quo, Israeli society no less bitterly divided, and the demographic explosion in the occupied territories no less pressing.

Writing on West Bank walls

Guide to political happenings

By Nicholas B. Tatro

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): Graffiti, the ubiquitous wall writing spray painted on mosques, schools and shops, is a guide to political happenings in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

From the Mount of Olives in Occupied Jerusalem to the farmlands of Gaza, the walls are a bulletin-board for political groups to proclaim their ideologies and issue public appeals.

"Let the Gaza Strip be in flames for Shultz," said a wall in Gaza City shortly before the recent Middle East shuttle of US Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

A slogan in black paint on the wall of the Beit Al May refugee camp in the West Bank declared: "Disgrace will face collaborators. Glory to our heroic martyrs."

It was signed by the United National Leadership of the Uprising, a name used by supporters of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Religious
A more religious tone was struck nearby: "Paradise for our martyrs" and "God is great. Victory to Islam."

This was signed by Hamas, Arabic for zeal, the signature of the Muslim Brotherhood, a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim group that opposes PLO support for a negotiated settlement.

"Islam is the solution and the alternative," said a slogan signed by the "Islamic Resistance," also believed to be the work of Muslim Brotherhood.

In travels through the occupied territories, a reporter saw other wall declarations signed by "Shaabiya," George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and "Democratia," Nayef Hawat-

meh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

One was the work of supporters of Mohammed Aghas, also known as Ahul Aghas, the mastermind of the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985.

On the Mount of Olives, writing on a wall declared "Palestinian-Arab solidarity lives on."

Slogan

This slogan is a rarity because sentiment in the West Bank and Gaza has been strongly against Arab states.

The feeling is that Arab states have failed to support the rebellion against Israeli occupation and some, notably Jordan, fear that the revolutionary fervour will cross its borders.

Some wall-writing has called for specific action, such as ones in Gaza that demanded the resignation of Arab tax collectors.

"Arab employees of the income tax and value added department must resign. Otherwise we will..." said the warning in downtown Gaza City.

Forty tax workers quit their jobs as directed, and new graffiti written in blue spray paint replaced the old: "Yes, yes for the step taken by our honourable brothers in resigning from the tax department..."

Hardline

Moderates have also come in for a pounding on the walls, which tend to reflect more hard-line views.

"Down with Hanna Siniara and Fayed Abu Rahme," declared a slogan attacking the two Palestinians who met with Shultz in Washington last month.

Israel's Army has periodically tried to censor the wall writing. In Nahlus, a reporter saw Arab prisoners watched by armed Israeli soldiers use black paint to blot out slogans such as "Death to Israel."

Vice-President's strategy pays off handsomely

Money matters: Bush's victory proves once again

AFTER the clean sweep Vice President George Bush scored throughout the south, it will be almost impossible for Senator Dole to wrest the Republican presidential nomination from him in the remaining primaries. Bush now has the political momentum and it is hard to swim against it.

Many people are left wondering how Bush managed to win so decisively. For, after all, it lacks charisma. That he does not project being a strong leader and that he is a vice president and no elected to the presidency in almost 150 years. But it did not count against him.

The simplest answer is that he has the better organisation and more money than any other candidate. Both represent an enormous advantage. Dole did not succeed in developing an effective and efficient organisation, in fact, only 10 days ago he fired two of his principal campaign managers. And money matters, it enabled Bush to buy more television time than anybody else.

The Vice President suffered a great deal of ridicule for being so utterly loyal to President Reagan, for backing uncritically his policies and for defending him during his various crises.

Approve

But this strategy has paid off handsomely because in the south, according to the opinion polls, more than 80 per cent of the Republican voters approve of Reagan's performance. It has also helped Bush that for some five years he has been cultivating what is called "the grassroots," the Republican organisations down to the local levels.

This enabled him not only to build up an effective organisation, but loyalty among Republican voters. Time and again he came into their districts helping to raise money for their party coffers with appearances and speeches. Now, when the time came to return his favours they did not let him down.

Senator Dole still has a slim chance to turn the tables on the vice president by winning the primary in the middle-western state of Illinois next week, and winning it convincingly, but it would give him not more than a

outside chance for Bush has almost enough delegates to win the nomination. Dole banked on the belief that he looks more presidential to Republicans than Bush and that he would have a better chance, being more combative and projecting more of a personality, than Bush, of winning the presidency, but he miscalculated by underrating the vice president's assets.

Divided

One of the great surprises on the Republican side was the poor showing of Pat Robertson, the evangelist. The south, he and everybody else, assumed where his constituency of fundamentalists proved to be more divided politically than expected. It may have also hurt him that he did not prove to be a credible candidate.

He injected sensational stories into the campaign, such as the Russians having returned to Cuba with offensive weapons, that proved to be untrue, he sounded so anti-Soviet that people suspected that he would be too belligerent as president and he claimed too much of an intimate relationship with God than was good for him politically.

Consequently, he drew far fewer conservative voters from Bush than the Bush camp had feared. It looks as if Bush is not only inheriting most of Reagan's policies, but also his luck.

It is still too early to discuss what kind of a president George Bush would make if he won the presidential race, because he may well have a tough fight ahead of him against whoever will be the Democrats' candidate.

But, at least before the start of the primary elections, the Democrats used to say that they would prefer to see their candidate battle against the vice president than against Senator Dole.

The viewed him as more vulnerable and easier to beat. But, as of now, none of the Democrats left in the race look particularly invincible, none are as well known as Bush and recognition does influence voting.

Among the Democrats, Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts showed surprising strength in the south for a liberal from the most liberal state

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



George Bush

of the union. His strategy of targeting the votes of Catholics, Jews and senior citizens paid off.

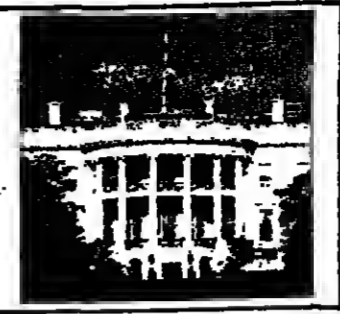
It also helped him that he was able to address the large Spanish population, especially in Florida, in their native tongue. They all belong to what is referred to as the new south. Albert Gore, the Congressman from Tennessee, relied on the so-called old southern voters who tend to be more conservative and loyal to a southern candidate.

Fight

While Dukakis sounds more like an old fashioned new dealer with the emphasis on domestic welfare issues, Gore emphasised his internationalism, the importance of arms control and the need for the United States to remain militarily strong. Dukakis outpolled Gore, but what mattered most to Gore was to elbow Richard Gephardt out of the race and in that he succeeded. Gephardt did not win a single state beyond his own, Missouri, and that eliminated him.

He built his campaign on a single issue, the need to impose severe protectionist limitations on imports. It is reassuring that this kind of extreme nationalism the voters rejected.

Now Gore and Dukakis will fight it out in the industrial states of the middle west, and the west,



Robert Dole

where Dukakis is likely to amass more voters, but whether he will also win enough delegates to the convention is uncertain.

Each state sends a certain number of delegates, and their number differs in each state, to the convention.

If neither Dukakis nor Gore reach the winning number of delegates before the convention, Jesse Jackson, the black preacher from Illinois, who has been fighting a remarkably success campaign, may have it in his power to decide who will get the nomination — Dukakis and Gore.

This is an unprecedented situation for a black to find himself in. Jackson, of course, has the advantage of being able to rely on what could be called a block vote — he won more than 90 per cent of the black vote in the south and about eight per cent of the white vote.

Nobody knows whether Jackson would favour Dukakis or Gore, but my guess is that he would prefer to see the most liberal among candidates to become the presidential nominee of the Democrats. He may therefore toss his pack of delegates into Dukakis' lap. What kind of promises Dukakis would have to give to Jackson is anybody's guess.

The primaries are not over yet.

Closure of PLO mission at the UN

Politics won in the long run

By Jim Anderson

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The administration decision to order the closure of the PLO mission at the United Nations was fought on the battleground of the law, foreign policy and politics. Politics won.

As a result, Secretary of State George Shultz, in the midst of a long-shot attempt to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process, saw his chances of talking to Arabs — and particularly the Palestinian Arabs — diminish.

Clovis Maksoud, representative of the Arab League — of which the PLO is a member — described the timing of the decision as "a gift for (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir."

Shamir, due to arrive in Washington tomorrow to give his answer to Shultz's peace proposals, has said Israel would

never negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Assistant Attorney General Charles Cooper, at a news conference announcing the closure, was asked why the decision could not have been delayed or why it was not made earlier when the announcement had been scheduled and then abruptly postponed.

Notice

He said the timing was dictated by the need to give the PLO reasonable notice before its expulsion date of March 21.

The Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, which ordered the expulsion, has been fought by the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil rights organisations on the ground that it is an infringement of first amendment rights.

Shultz called the law "one of the dumbest things Congress has

done" and opposed it energetically on several grounds: ● The law was a direct infringement on his — and the President's — exclusive right to carry out foreign policy.

● The expulsion of an accepted delegation to the United Nations would cast doubt on the US ability to carry out its host-country obligations to the United Nations and its ability to carry out other existing treaty agreements.

Relations

Cooper said the constitutional issue was considered and rejected on the narrow ground that the United States does not have diplomatic relations with the PLO. He said it would be "clearly unconstitutional" if Congress were to pass a similar law ordering the expulsion of the Soviet mission since the United States diplomatically recognises the

Soviet Union.

Cooper said the supreme court has established that any law passed by Congress abrogates a treaty, if the law is inconsistent with that treaty.

Maksoud said neither the PLO nor the Arab League would fight the order in the US courts because "this is a matter between the United States and the United Nations."

But Congress, in the heat of an presidential election campaign, listened instead to several powerful pro-Israeli organisations, including the American Jewish Congress.

The bill was co-sponsored by Jack Kemp, Republican-New York, and Robert Dole, Republican-Kansas, both presidential contenders at the time of the bill's passage.

Ironically, in the ensuing debate, some of the pro-Israeli groups, including the AIC, have reconsidered their position and have withdrawn their support for the PLO expulsion.

Lee remains firm on Taiwan's three 'No's'



Lee Teng-hui

promise with Beijing.) Taipei does not approve of investments in China by its citizens, he said, while implying that these investments would still go ahead. He also implied that Taipei will return to the meetings of the Asian Development Bank, of which it remains a member, even though its name has been changed, under Beijing's insistence, from the Republic of China to China-Taipei.

Lee placed the onus of change in mainland-Taiwan relations on Communist Party, even with its economic liberalisation, he said. Taiwan will remain concerned about its security.

The President spoke against the backdrop of a remarkable political transition taking place on Taiwan. Begun under the late President Chiang, the process is replacing authoritarian rule with greater freedom and democracy. It is also diminishing the role of mainlanders in government.

Lee, Taiwan-born and educated in Japan, Taiwan, and the US, stresses his own Chinese-ness.

"To say that because I was not born on the Chinese mainland and have not been there, I therefore do not understand the Chinese mainland, is extremely mistaken," he said.

There are, of course, sharp political differences between the

ching that of Western Europe or the US an achievable goal within the lifetime of most wage-earners here. Political development cannot lag far behind.

The military establishment and the security apparatus remain strongholds of conservatism. If the government continues to open up the political system, the Democratic Progressives and other opposition groups will have to find policy-oriented issues to replace current slogans of democracy versus dictatorship, or Taiwanese versus mainlanders. This is a big if, and political observers here say the period between now and the opening of the Kuomintang party congress in July could prove decisive in determining the shape of things to come.

Lee, for his part, seems firmly resolved to rule as president of all the people, certainly not as a Taiwanese stooge of mainlanders, nor as a Taiwanese opposing mainlanders.

"Look forward, not backward," he admonished those who would reopen old wounds such as the 1947 tragedy in which mainland troops killed large numbers of unarmed islanders.

For the 20 million citizens of this island, whether mainland or Taiwan-born, this is a challenging time.

Economic development has made a living standard approach

but the field has thinned out and if I had to bet on who will win the great contest for the nomination, I would predict that Bush will be the Republican candidate and the Democrats will field a Dukakis-Gore ticket.

Who will run in tandem with Bush is still hard to guess. It will not be Dole, for the two hate each other. It may well be the governor of California, Deukemian, who is popular in his state and to have the assurance of winning California would give Bush an advantage that hardly any other candidate could match.

Force

When Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrives in Washington next week for an official visit, Secretary of State George Shultz plans to force him to say either yes or no to the American peace plan.

Shamir, at his last meeting in occupied Jerusalem, made it clear, that the plan was not acceptable to him because it is based on the formula of an exchange of "land for peace" and he and his party remain opposed to giving up any part of the West Bank.

But Shultz sees himself in a stronger bargaining position than the United States has ever been. What has come to be called "the revolution of stones" continues unabated in the West Bank and Gaza and the Israeli government is at a loss of how to cope with it.

What most Israelis have come to realise is Shultz has been told, that the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza cannot continue indefinitely for it could endanger the long-term future of the whole of Israel.

Sooner rather than later the Israeli government will have to hie into that bitter apple. Furthermore, Shultz has on his desk a letter signed by 30 pro-Israeli members of Congress who seek to encourage him to persevere with his peace plan.

Among the 30 are some of Israel's staunchest supporters. This represents an astonishing break with the past. Most Israelis do not realise to what extent the welfare of their state depends on financial support from the United States. But it does and with the mood toward Israel changing among its most loyal supporters American aid could

become the political tool of last resort.

What is profoundly worrisome to Shultz and members of Congress are recent opinion polls taken in Israel which show that the revolution of stones in the West Bank and Gaza has had virtually no impact on Israeli public opinion. Israelis remain about evenly divided between the Likud and Labour parties as before.

It means that there is no majority for the American peace plan. In fact, a radicalisation has set in on the right which could lead to Shamir being replaced by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sharon, who is even harder to deal with. Some 27 per cent, according to the latest polls, would go as far as forcibly suppressing the riots. Nor is there any hope that a national election would end the current stalemate between the two leading parties.

Secretary of State Shultz is determined to put all the pressure we can on Shamir during his Washington stay. He plans to try his best to impress on him that he must make it clear whether he is willing to follow the American peace plan or not. He is not willing to accept the counter-proposals the Israeli prime minister is reported to be carrying in his briefcase.

Disagree

Even if Shultz and Shamir continue to disagree, it is hoped in Washington this visit will lead the Israeli prime minister to realise what a profound change has occurred and how dangerous it would be for Israel's internal and external future to remain unyielding.

The Shultz plan, which is based on the Camp David accords, does not allow for a five year interval until Israel would have to make territorial concessions. It assumed that time is of the essence and that negotiations for a permanent solution must begin by the end of this year.

Next week's meeting will be the most serious confrontation between the United States and Israel yet, and all the indications are that it will end in disagreement.

What could save Shamir from embarrassment is an outright rejection of the Shultz plan by King Hussein and the Palestinians.

Climate of tolerance may help dissidents to return home

By Mark Heinrich

COLOGNE, West Germany, (Reuters): Lev Kopelev takes pleasure from afar at the way glasnost has been embraced in the Soviet Union — and hopes the new climate of tolerance means he will be able to return.

Only a few years ago the Soviet writer was banished abroad for voicing the kind of criticisms the Soviet Union now encourages, since Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced his policy of openness.

The Kremlin stripped Kopelev of his citizenship in 1980 for his many years of dogged challenge of abuses of communist power.

He has since carved out a comfortable life in West Germany with his wife Raisa, writing on Soviet and German culture, filling media requests for commentaries on East-West relations, and travelling abroad as he never could before.

But Kopelev, 75, hopes the proclaimed climate of tolerance that recently enabled his onetime dissident comrade Andrei Sakharov to shake hands with Gorbachev might allow him to go home again before long.

Visit

"Sure, I am hoping now that I will be able to visit (the Soviet Union). I want to be buried in Moscow, after all," Kopelev told Reuters in a recent interview, stroking his distinctive, hallowing white beard.

"I have hope that what they did to me, confiscating my citizenship, could no longer happen today. You see, what some Soviet newspapers are writing now would have been grounds for at least seven years in a labour camp a few years ago."

Kopelev now finds it much easier to keep in touch with the Moscow circle of intellectuals and human rights activists in which he was once prominent.

"I can direct-dial Moscow with the telephone now. I was on the phone with Sakharov yesterday and I asked him if there had been any new releases of (political) prisoners," Kopelev said.

"He said he hadn't heard of any. I try to call him once a month but he's very, very busy these days. He's very involved in a movement to make nuclear power safe," said Kopelev, shaking his head with a mixture of admiration and resignation.

"It can take three weeks to a month but at least we're getting letters dependably from home now. We don't have to go through the detours that once were unavoidable," he said.

Declining to reveal the nature of the "detours" to protect his Moscow friends, Kopelev explained that many rivers remained to be crossed before people of independent conscience could feel secure in the Soviet Union.

"One can speak out more freely and courageously there than at any time in the last 60 years. Books are coming out that were banned for 70 years," said Kopelev, whose better known works include "And Bring Me A False God — Learning Years of a Communist" and "Ban the Banner in Search of Truth in Moscow," both published in West Germany in the 1970s.

"But resistance to perestroika (Gorbachev's restructuring of Soviet society) is very strong and is not weakening. There are still taboos. You can't write about the KGB (secret police) or about Lenin's mistakes."

"Now comes the 20th anniversary of the Prague Spring but you still can't write the truth that the way it was stopped, through the invasion of Czechoslovakia, was simply a crime."

Alexander Dubcek, the reformist Czechoslovak communist leader toppled by a Soviet-led invasion, "was only doing then what Gorbachev is doing now," according to Kopelev.

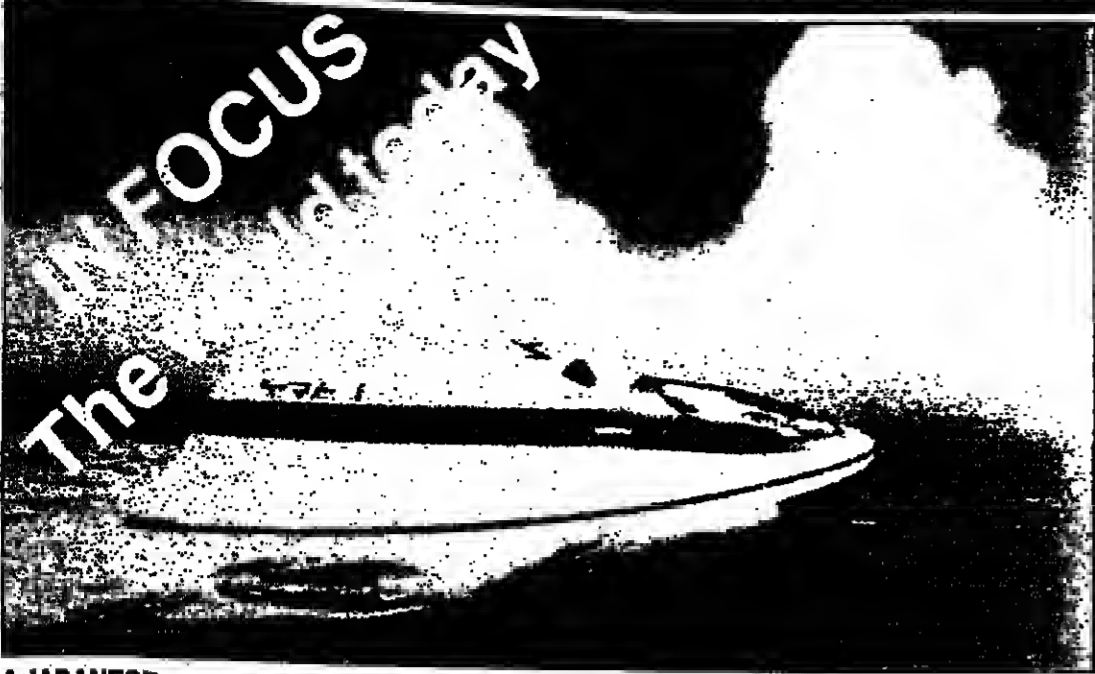
The son of a Jewish agronomist, Kopelev was brought up in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev. A childhood friendship with a German family that shared the Kopelev home developed into a lifelong love of German literature which he studied in Moscow in the 1930s.

Invasion

Shortly after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Kopelev volunteered for the Red Army at atrocities in East Prussia in 1945.

He was arrested, convicted of sympathising with the enemy and spent 10 years in prison and labour camps where he met author Alexander Solzhenitsyn who portrayed him in his novel "The First Circle."

Kopelev was freed and "rehabilitated" in 1956 after the denunciation of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's excesses by Nikita Khrushchev.



THE FOCUS
Today

A JAPANESE group plans to develop a new kind of ship which uses super-conducting electromagnets for propulsion rather than propellers. The private Japan Foundation for Shipbuilding Advancement said they aimed to produce a 150-tonne demonstration vessel by 1990. Photo shows an artist's representation of the craft. (Reuter wirephoto)



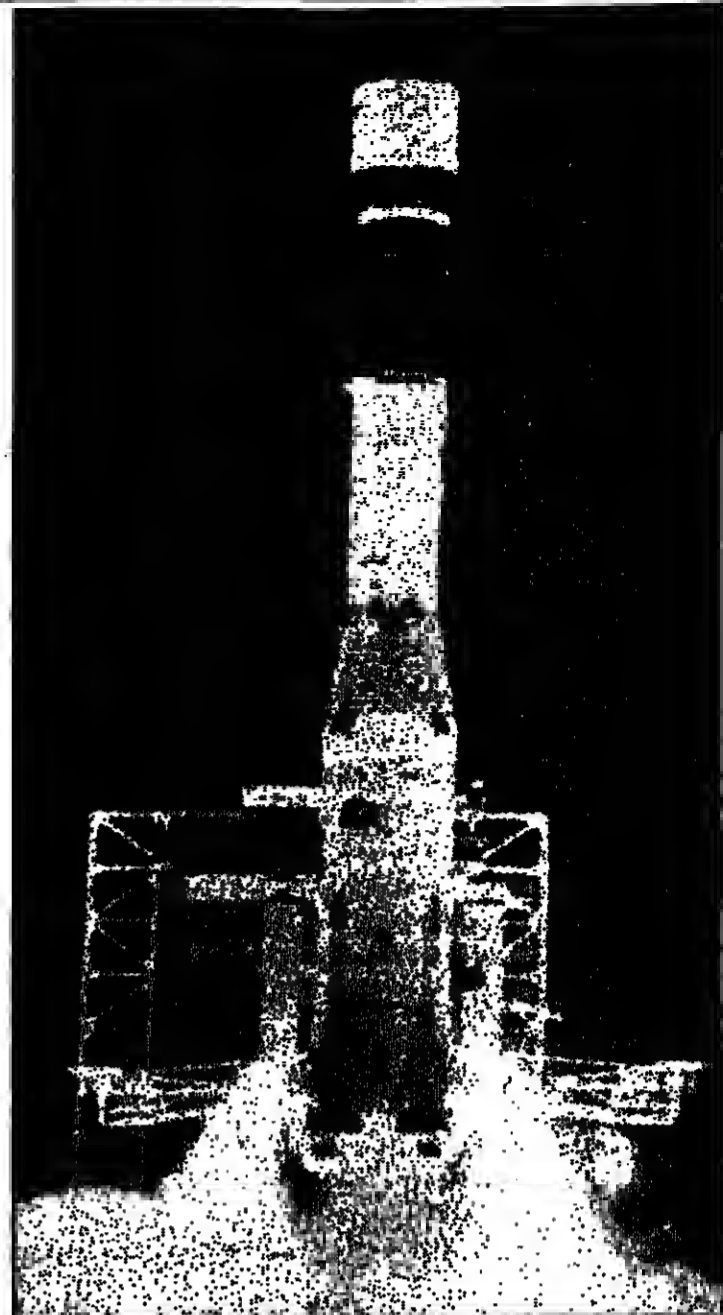
TWO Palestinians throw stones at Israeli soldiers during a demonstration on Friday in Ramallah after Friday prayers. The soldiers dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets. (Reuter wirephoto)



WITH attorney Leonard Garment (right) by his side, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane meets with reporters outside a US District Court on Friday after pleading guilty to four criminal charges arising from his activities in the Iran-Contra scandal. Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh won an agreement from McFarlane to plead guilty in exchange for his testimony in the case. (Reuter wirephoto)



INDIAN Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (centre) wearing a turban, marches along with volunteers during a re-enactment of the historic 'Dandi March' yesterday in the west Indian city of Gandhinagar. The march was originally walked by Mahatma Gandhi 58-years-ago in protest of the Salt Act imposed by the British during India's struggle for independence. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE European rocket Ariane-3 blasts off from the space centre in Kourou, French Guiana yesterday. Officials called the 21st lift-off of the Ariane rocket a 'complete success.' The rocket was carrying a Telecom 1-C satellite for France Telecom and GTE Spacenet Corporation's Spacenet III-R/Geostar R01 for US domestic communications. (Reuter wirephoto)



PRESIDENT Corazon Aquino waves at the crowd while reviewing a line of cadets at the Philippine Military Academy in northern Baguio City yesterday. Aquino told the military in her speech to stay out of politics and get back to fighting Communist rebels and right-wing coup plotters. (Reuter wirephoto)



GOVERNOR Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts holds Kate Marley while campaigning at a Greek restaurant in Chicago on Friday. Dukakis will be trying to hold his own in the Democratic primary in Illinois, March 15 for the nomination of president from the Democratic party. Rev Jesse Jackson and Senator Paul Simon are expected to edge him out. (Reuter wirephoto)



DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Gary Hart (top right) pauses during his speech on Friday in Denver while announcing that he is withdrawing from the race for the second time. Republican Representative Jack Kemp (bottom picture) of New York announces his withdrawal from the Republican presidential race on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)



US CITIZEN Richard Boren, 30, of Elkin, North Carolina, walks with Contra rebels on Wednesday, shortly before his release outside the Nicaraguan town of Quilali, 100 miles from Managua. Boren, who works as a volunteer for the religious group Witness for Peace, was kidnapped along with 11 Nicaraguans on March 1 during a Contra raid on a northern Nicaraguan village. (Reuter wirephoto)



EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak (left) and King Hussein of Jordan stand to attention while national anthems of both countries are played in Cairo on Friday. King Hussein, on a few hours visit, discussed the latest US Mideast peace proposals after having consulted the leaders of Syria, Iraq and Kuwait on the plan. (Reuter wirephoto)



MARIPIA FANFANI, President of the National Women's Committee of the International Red Cross receives a kiss from a young boy during a visit to a village for orphans in Cairo on Friday. Fanfani is the wife of Amintore Fanfani, current Minister of the Interior and former Prime Minister of Italy. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE

Arrangements being made for private funeral

Andy Gibb's death 'not suicide'

LONDON, (UPI): Funeral arrangements were pending for pop star Andy Gibb, who died of an undisclosed illness five days after his 30th birthday and at the start of a comeback bid.

Gibb shot to fame in the 1970s under the guidance of his brothers — but his career faltered amid drug abuse and emotional problems.

He signed a contract with Britain's Island Records two months ago and moved to Britain to work on a comeback album. A spokeswoman for Island Records said he was stricken with stomach pains Monday and hospitalised for observation.

Gibb, who turned 30 last Saturday, died at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, 63 miles (101 km) northwest of London.

"I can confirm that Andy Gibb died this morning at 8:45 am," the hospital's administrator said. "At this stage I can give out no other information. The family has asked that we not give out any further information."

He said he could not immediately disclose the cause of death. "It wasn't suicide," he stressed. He was ill.

"His family has no public statement to make," the spokeswoman at Island Records said. "They are making private arrangements for the funeral."

Gibb had two No. 1 hits, "I Just Want To Be Your Everything" in 1977 and "Shadow Dancing" in 1978, but was unable to sustain his success.

After 1981-82, when he hosted the syndicated US television programme "Solid Gold", Gibb's life and career succumbed in bankruptcy and drug abuse, which reportedly caused the end of a love affair with actress Victoria Principal, former star of the "Dallas" television series.

Looking for a fresh start, he signed the deal with Island Records in January and moved to Britain.

Gibb dropped out of school at 13 and later joined his brothers in Miami. He married Kim Reeder, a former receptionist in 1976, but they were divorced



Andy Gibb: became heavily involved with drugs



Andy (centre), flanked by two of his elder brothers, celebrates his performance in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Coat'.

two years later. Gibb appeared on Broadway in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat but missed so many performances that he was replaced. While his older brothers Barry, Maurice and Robin

were becoming international stars in the mid-1960s with their group, the Bee Gees, Andy was in Australia, where he spent much of his youth, playing in amateur bands.

The Bee Gees reached their peak in 1977 with their songs

for the score of the movie 'Saturday Night Fever', a Robert Stigwood production that brought television actor John Travolta to the big screen.

The year also marked Andy Gibb's first international success under his brothers' wing. After signing with Bee Gees manager Stigwood, he recorded his first album, Flowing Rivers on RSO Records Inc., under brother Barry's supervision.

The next year, brother Maurice produced Andy's 'Shadow Dancing' album.

Title tracks from both albums topped the US pop charts. The brown-eyed, blond-haired singer was a big hit with teenyboppers and the disco set but once said, "I don't see myself as a teenybopper idol. I don't even like to dance."

Despite his successful solo career, Gibb never fully emerged from the shadow of his older superstar brothers, Maurice, Robin and Barry, who formed the Bee Gees.

Last year, Gibb filed a personal bankruptcy petition in Miami claiming he had less than \$50,000 and more than \$1 million in debts.

His 1985 income was listed as \$24,727 and for 1986 only \$7,755. The court papers said his brothers owned the furniture and musical and electronic equipment in his apartment and that he was living rent-free.

In 1985, Gibb attempted to solve his drug problem with a rehabilitation programme at the Betty Ford Clinic in California.

"This is really a shock," said his Miami lawyer, John Kozyak. "The last time I saw him, he looked perfectly healthy to me. He was playing tennis."

Gibb had been living in Miami.

Gibb's manager, Robert Stigwood, said in New York he was "very sad and deeply distressed, and sorry. I have been in touch with his parents and brothers. I will miss him."

Dick Ashby, the Bee Gees' representative in Miami, said Gibb's mother, Barbara Gibb, was with him when he died.

By Jane Easterman

THE pout, the look, the expression of innocence and naughtiness still makes men see stars... the magic of Marilyn Monroe is very much alive.

Now, 26 years after her tragic death, the Hollywood legend is sending men just as wild as she has always done.

For a doting father has recently paid a staggering £7,150 for Marilyn's blouse, baring some of its magic will rub off to make his 16-year-old daughter a star.

Ever any proof was needed, Marilyn is still the world's greatest sex symbol.

Property developer Patrick Mills said: "My girl Chantelle has got dark hair — but she has got Marilyn's figure and will look lovely in it. She wants to be an actress, dancer and singer and I thought this would be a surprise way of launching her into showbusiness."

The skimpy green blouse, adorned with black lace, was Marilyn's bosom companion in the 1956 film, Bus Stop.

Despite its plunging neckline and cutie-pie puff sleeves, the estimated sale price seemed well over the top. Then a Marilyn Monroe lookalike squeezed herself into lot 269 at the Sotheby's auction in London and set pulses and bids racing.

The Monroe blouse was sold by Mrs Fulcher, a film buff who won the blouse as first prize in a competition run by Picture Show and Pictorial Magazine.

Yet it is not the first time something worn by Marilyn has gone on to reach a high price. In May 1987, a show-girl outfit also worn in the film, Bus Stop was sold for a staggering £15,950.

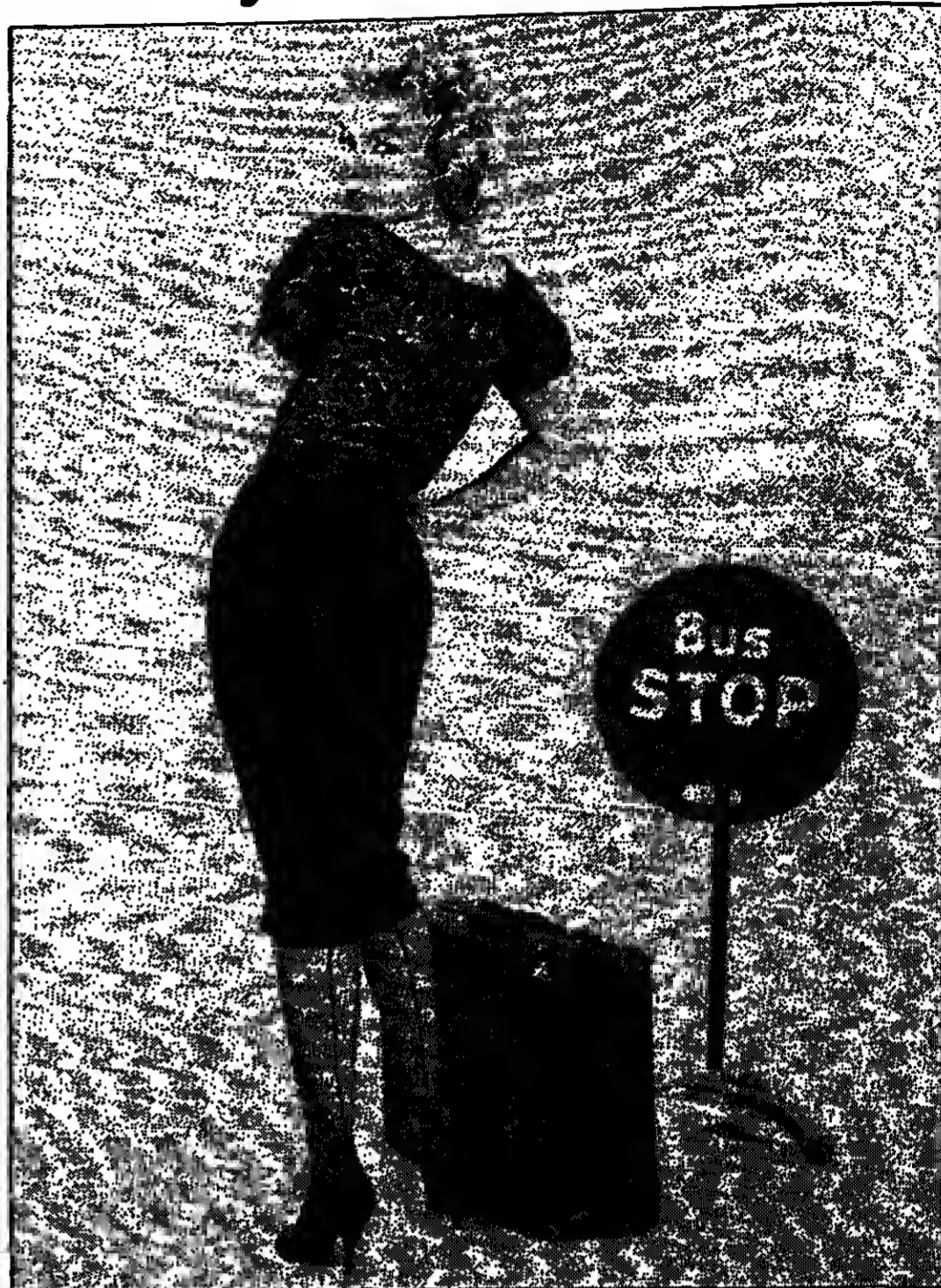
And so the revival continues. Mega-star Elton John has released his hit single, Candle In The Wind, which is about the glamorous actress and superstar Madonna has tried to make herself look as much like Monroe as possible. In the video for her No. 1 single, Material Girl, she copied a famous scene from the film, Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend.

For according to dress designer Bill Travilla, the man who put shoulder pads in Dallas and has dressed some of the soap world's most beautiful women, no-one has ever quite compared with Marilyn.

Bill, who has worked with Linda Evans and Victoria Principal, says: "Marilyn was every-

£7,150 paid for 'Bus Stop' blouse

Marilyn's magic lives on



Legendary star Marilyn Monroe in the film Bus Stop.

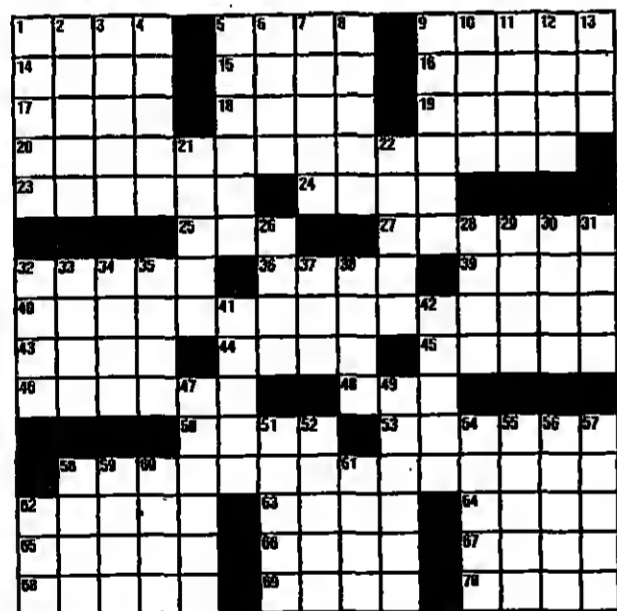
thing a man could want — soft, delicate and almost childlike with a gorgeous body.

"I designed the famous

cream dress for Marilyn in the film, Seven Year Itch and not only was I proud to design the outfit, it was pure joy to work

with her. She was a star like no other." And it seems she always will be...

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Cantrill from Sydney
 - 5 Art follower
 - 9 Leaves shore
 - 14 Favorite
 - 15 Student's concern
 - 16 Concur
 - 17 Glutton's cry
 - 18 J.F. Cuper heroína
 - 19 Queen's "topper"
 - 20 Double value, in a proverb
 - 23 Off ana's feet
 - 24 Swiss river
 - 25 Just out
 - 27 City in NE Georgia
 - 32 Jockeys' records
 - 36 Attention-getter
 - 39 Latin word
 - 40 Not a moment too soon
 - 43 Needle case
 - 44 Buddhist mountain
 - 45 He's moray bound
 - 46 "the piper's son..."
 - 48 Giva a poor review
 - 50 Large cut
 - 53 Sea duck
 - 58 This is often sufficient
 - 62 Bring forth
 - 63 Track shape
 - 64 Decent
 - 65 A Day
 - 66 Word with hagatelle
 - 67 Cupid
 - 68 Meara and Bancroft
 - 69 Ruse
 - 70 Record
- DOWN
- 1 Certain beans
 - 2 Sun-dried brick
 - 3 Water wheel
 - 4 Vigilant
 - 5 Come to a conclusion
 - 6 Yeoman of the guard officer
 - 7 Magna
 - 8 1835 Triple Crown winner
 - 9 Perfumed bag
 - 10 Pearl Mnsque site
 - 11 Pressing need?
 - 12 X-rated
 - 13 DC VIP
 - 21 Packed tightly
 - 22 Poet's muse
 - 26 Caprice
 - 28 Have no use for
 - 29 Jannings or Ludwig
 - 30 Dub
 - 31 Old or young and/or
 - 32 Count calories
 - 33 Division word
 - 34 Grape juice of a sort
 - 35 IOU
 - 37 Diamonds, to a yegg
 - 38 Between hop and jump
 - 41 Wanderer
 - 42 Receiver of stolen goods
 - 43 Fierce female
 - 49 Scarlett's love
 - 51 Lively dance
 - 52 Crude aboda
 - 54 Young hooter
 - 55 See 19 Across
 - 56 Bar, at the bar
 - 57 Dells of song
 - 58 Bard's stream
 - 59 Frayed
 - 60 Steinbeck character
 - 61 Poi source
 - 62 Author LeShan

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SNAP MEAT ACHES
LOLA ANKA FRONT
AVER NAIL TASTE
BACKGAMMON PEEL
AUTO NIAGARA
OPS SER ELIA
GULCHES DESMONO
AMAH EPEE
MAGENTA CENSURE
SEAS AYA SOP
CONSORT VEIL
ERAS POKERFLATS
ROREM LAME AXON
ANITA ALAS MERE
MOSSY TINT ALTE

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J954 ♥ Q6 ♦ KJ108 ♣ KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—On this auction, partner could have four spades as well, and it is your duty to probe for a possible 4 major fit. Bid one spade. At the one-level, the fourth suit is natural, and any new suit by responder in an unlimited auction is a one-round force.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 95 ♥ AJ63 ♦ J102 ♣ AQJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—No sense wasting time. You have no 4-4 major fit and, with your balanced opening bid values, you want to be in game. Since the unbid suit is well stopped, you know where to play the hand. Bid three no trump.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ6 ♥ A1065 ♦ KQ98 ♣ 73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—You have the values for game but you can't be sure of your best contract. It might be in diamonds, no trump or even spades. For the moment, jump to three diamonds. A jump in opener's minor is forcing, and will give you time to find your best spot.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 83 ♥ K1083 ♦ AQ ♣ AKJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 2 ♥ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

A.—This is a matter of style. If you play that two hearts is a game force, you need do no more than bid three hearts—you want to leave as much room as possible for slam exploration. However, if partner is allowed to pass three hearts, you have to jump to game in his suit.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 76 ♥ AK874 ♦ 95 ♣ A1043
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

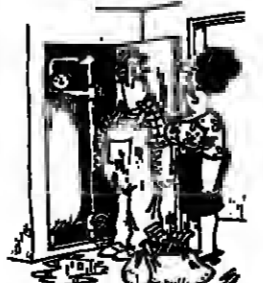
A.—Whether or not you play fourth-suit forcing is immaterial. No trump is the last thing you want to declare—you do not have a single tenace to protect. Simply rebid two hearts and see what partner wants to do.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 83 ♥ Q92 ♦ AQ872 ♣ 654
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—If partner can issue a game invitation, you have the values to accept. Your diamond suit is probably good for five tricks and your queen of hearts is sure to be working. Bid three no trump.



"It makes it much easier getting 'em to the river."



"No, I don't want your estimate — I want to know how much it's going to cost me!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should not delay making a decision. Do not allow your attention to wander. Make the most of things. Be considerate.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have to act fast if you do not want to miss a good opportunity. Now is a good time to catch up in a direction in which you have fallen behind. Do not ask for too much. Be prompt.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should be a little more patient. Avoid making a promise you will find difficult to keep. You should try to think a little more positively. Be grateful.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should do a little more to control your expenses. Try to look at the positive side. Avoid jumping to conclusions. Be objective.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should not rely on others to do things for you. You will be tempted to spend more than you can actually afford. You should not take things quite so personally. Be solicitous.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to get on well with your colleagues. You would be wrong to put off what you know should be done now. A friend will ask you to do him a favour and will be grateful. Be less solemn.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You must ensure that you do not do anything that would be inconsistent with what you have been doing. A little bit more patience is needed just now. A 'slight' cold must not be neglected. Be resilient.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

There will be some rather drastic changes, but you will be able to take them in your stride. You will have something to be pleased about. You should not seek to rely on luck alone. Be cordial.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You must resist a temptation to spend extravagantly, a letter you have received should be answered without delay. Take a little more care when overtaking. Be amenable.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

If you expect others to do just what you would like you will be sorely disappointed. You should try to do something that both you and your partner like doing. You should concentrate on positive aspects. Be helpful.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be no better terms with those around you. Give others a chance to express their opinion. Stick to your principles or you will do something you will come to regret. Be sincere.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will have what at first seems like a good idea but it will not be quite appropriate to present circumstances. You will be able to make good progress with a personal project.

SNIPPERS

Striking teachers press for payment

STRIKING teachers of Manila's public schools trooped to City Hall anew to press for payment of their allowances and other benefits, totalling P24 million.

The teachers, at the same time, denounced the arrest by police last week of 10 of their co-teachers during their rally at the Freedom Park in Malacanang.

As their strike entered its third day, the officers of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) said their protest has now paralysed 95 of the city's 103 public elementary and high schools.

The MPSTA officers said that they will continue their strike until their demands are met by the authorities. School principals and supervisors joined the teachers in their rally.

Manila Mayor Gemilao Lopez Jr. the other day ordered the immediate payment to the teachers of an initial P11.4 million for January.

Despite Lopez' order, the teachers trooped to City Hall, saying they want their money and not just promises.

The striking teachers set two conditions for returning to their classrooms.

The two conditions are the payment of their allowances, the city share in their salaries and their cost-of-living allowances (COLA) for January and February this year, and a written assurance either from Malacanang or the Department of Education.

Ban sought on some imported medicines

THE Chamber of Filipino Drug Manufacturers and Distributors (CFDMD) asked Congress to ban the entry of drugs which can be produced locally.

Edwin Santiago, CFDMD executive director, told congressmen that Filipinos are being taken for a ride by multinational drug firms, which claim that imported drugs are superior in quality compared to locally produced ones.

Appearing during a hearing conducted by the House subcommittee on the drug industry, Santiago also blamed multinational firms for the ever-increasing costs of medicines sold here.

"The superior-quality argument forms part of the multinationals' campaign against the use of cheaper generic drugs," Santiago said.

Robbery at Marcos mansion

LAOAG CITY: Unidentified robbers broke into the mansion of former President Ferdinand Marcos in downtown Batang, Ilocos Norte, last weekend and carried away five paintings by Juao Luna worth some P1 million.

The rare paintings of Juan Luna, a native of Ilocos Norte, had adorned the Marcos house's living room. They were described as about four feet by six feet.

Benjamin Gutib, caretaker of the Marcos house, which is a few metres from the town hall and police station, said he noticed that the paintings were missing only last Sunday while he was cleaning the house.

It was disclosed that the five collector's items command a price of P1 million or even higher.

Batang Mayor Jesus Nalupta, who was informed yesterday morning of the robbery said the robbers forced their way into the house through a second-floor window near the bedroom.

Nalupta expressed surprise that the robbers were only interested in the paintings although there were many other valuable items in the mansion.

Sex ring busted

GOVERNMENT agents arrested 22 foreigners and three Filipinos suspected of being members of an international sex syndicate in raids on a lodge and eight private houses in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

The raids were conducted by agents of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID) led by Bienvenido Alano Jr who said that they also held 19 young boys and girls believed to have been recruited by the syndicate.

Immigration Commissioner Miriam Defensor Santiago said the arrested foreigners were mostly Australians and Europeans but did not identify them, saying that they were undergoing tactical interrogation and record check.

Also confiscated during the raids were photo albums, posters, literature, and films of child prostitutes in salacious poses.

Aquino extends permit to Yamashita treasure hunters

Gold-fever grips Fort Santiago

THE government of the Philippines apparently optimistic that tons of gold would be unearthed from Fort Santiago, gave a group of American treasure hunters 30 more days to go on digging.

Emanuel Soriano, President Aquino's national security adviser and head of a government committee monitoring the diggings, said: "We don't know the exact volume but there is evidence that it is substantial; it is worth looking for and it is there. Makikita ang aog taumbayan."

Fort Santiago is a 17th Century Spanish garrison built on the site of the original settlement called Maynilad, whose last native Muslim ruler was Rajah Sulayman. In World War II, the fort was used as a prison by the Japanese occupation army. It is also the site of a museum containing the memorabilia of Dr Jose Rizal, the national hero.

Soriano said extending the permit given to firm International Precious Metals, Inc. (IPM) was justified. The President has decided to allow the continuation of the project until it is successfully completed, he said.

Asked about the validity of the permit granted to IPM by the Office of the President, Soriano said it was authorised under Presidential Decree No. 1726-A which was issued by then President Marcos on Oct. 1, 1980.

Charles McDougald, spokesman and director of IPM, said the treasure hunters expect to find gold bullion within 10 to 15 days inside a place used as torture chamber by Japanese soldiers during the war.

Soriano explained that the usual period given to treasure-bunting contracts is 90 days. IPM got its permit early December last year and was scheduled to expire next week but the President has



Treasure hunt: McDougald leads two labourers carrying dug up soil in Fort Santiago

decided to extend it to another 30 days.

Their request for a permit was made sometime in November. The permit was granted early December but they were not able to start immediately because IPM president (Robert) Curtis had to undergo an operation and they had to wait until he was fully recovered before they could start again.

Soriano pointed out that IPM is not one of those fly-by-night prospectors. We only give permits to those with evidence and credentials because we don't want thousands of fortune hunters' digging all over the country.

Soriano assured the public that "nothing is going on there right now that is going to disprove a national shrine."

"Hardly any damage has been done to the fort so I don't think that's a valid issue. We are all hoping that IPM will be successful. It will mean a lot for our country and our people. It would

be an added resource available to improve the economy."

Meanwhile at the excavation site, McDougald said the gold bullion expected to be unearthed from Fort Santiago "will make the Philippines very state," which is why many groups oppose the diggings.

"A substantial amount of treasure here, specially gold, can decrease your foreign debt," he said.

He said deposed President Ferdinand Marcos and his friends "would be our Number One stumbling block — the loyalists are doing everything to block it." He said that if the country is stable, it would be very hard for Marcos to comeback.

McDougald also revealed that some of Marcos' friends had already excavated the site sometime in 1983 where IPM is working now and that there is evidence gold had been recovered there.

The author-turned-treasure hunter also said the government

committee created to oversee the operations, made up of Soriano, Presidential Security Group commander Col Voltaire Gazmin and Curtis are constantly giving them guidelines.

He said IPM is using a special technology to pinpoint the exact location of the treasure. He added that if they are ordered to stop the diggings, it is doubtful if "other people without sufficient information could get to the gold."

McDougald, in his fourth daily press briefing, recounted how they were able to determine the exact location of the gold bullion, part of what is believed to be of World War II hoard buried by the Japanese Imperial Army during the war.

He said Curtis worked with Marcos and former AFP chief of staff Gen. Fabiao C Ver, in several treasure-hunting operations in 1975.

The operation, code-named Leber, was based on Japanese maps given to Marcos by his lieutenants, McDougald said, and all the maps and engineering drawings have one central location.

Curtis was contacted by Marcos after learning that the American had developed a new technology for refining gold that could maximise recovery of gold.

During the Marcos operations Curtis was in charge of the maps. He photographed them and sent them outside the country. The maps are for a total of 172 sites, McDougald said, and Marcos was able to dig five or six sites.

McDougald earlier said 1978 reports indicate \$14 billion in gold were recovered by Marcos from two sites in Teresa, Antipolo, Rizal and inside the sunken Japanese freighter Nachi Maru at Manila Bay.

Reports from Jerry Esplanada and Catalino Alano Jr.

Ding dong, Tingting, Peping, Bongbong, Danding, Noynoy, Ballsy, Buts, Au-au and Popsie — all part of the Pinoy name game

By Daniela Deane

MANILA (UPI): You can call Philippine supreme court chief justice Claudio Teehanke "Ding doog." His best friends do.

You can call President Corazon Aquino's eldest daughter "Ballsy." She won't be insulted.

"Noynoy" and "Peping," "Tingting" and "Teddy Man" — all are proper forms of address for some of Cory's closest advisers.

"Almost all Filipinos have nicknames," said Dr Mioda Sutar, the undersecretary of education, known to most as simply "Min." "Filipinos like to be informal and friendly."

"Nobody can believe I don't have a nickname," said one, rather odd, Manila woman of Chinese parentage. "People just make them up for me."

"Teddy Man" is Aquino's press spokesman Teodoro Benigno. Not to be confused with "Teddy Boy," or Teodoro Locsin Jr presidential confidante and speechwriter.

"Ballsy," Aquino's oldest child and close adviser, is really Maria Eleonora Aquino Cruz. No one even remembers her given name anymore. "Noynoy" is the president's only male child, son of Aquino and her late husband "Ninoy."

Nicknames are so entrenched in Filipino society that Manila's international airport, recently renamed after the President's murdered husband, is officially called the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, rather than the Benigno S. Aquino Jr airport.



President 'Cory'

President Aquino's brother-in-law, Agapito, a Filipino senator, is known as "Buts." He's married to "Popsie."

Aquino's brother "Peping" — or Jose Cojuangco — just celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary with pretty Margarita, or "Tingting."

Ousted President Ferdinand Marcos irritated the Filipino love for informality by insisting he be called "your excellency." But behind his back, everyone knew the stoogman as either "Ferdie," "Fred" or "Macoy."

His flamboyant wife, Imelda, was "Melly" and their youngest son, former governor of Ilocos Norte province, preferred to be known as "Boonghoo."

Imee Marcos Maatoc, daughter of the former president and first lady, is the wife of Tommy Maatoc. Tommy used to be married to beauty queen Aurora Pijuan, or "Au-au" (pronounced ow-ow), a former Miss International.

"Danding" — well-known Marcos croony and estranged

Aquino first cousin Eduardo Cojuangco — allegedly fled the country with the Marcoses.

Back in Manila, the central bank is run by Jose Fernandez, known to his friends as "Jobo." "Eddie" — Fidel Ramos — was just named the country's defense secretary following the resignation of "Rocky," or Rafael Ileta. "Johnny" — opposing leader Juan Ponce Enrile — held that job during the Marcos years.

All is not well between "Cory" and "Doy," or vice president Salvador Laurel, who recently resigned from the foreign affairs ministry.

"Boy," "Hooley Boy," "Baby" and "Cookie" are all common names. An American woman recently was very distressed to hear her husband call a driver "boy" on their way home from the airport. "But that's his name," the husband protested.

One of the most popular priests on the central island of Negros is "Father Baby" Gordocillo.

Society columns are full of what "Tweet Tweet," "Boo," "Twinkle," "Peaches" or "Cherry Pie" did at the opening of some new Manila disco.

"Nicknames date back to the Spanish regime," said education undersecretary "Mio," whose boss, the secretary of education, is known as "Lou-lou." "Even my grandmother had nicknames."

"When we ask someone's name, we right away ask, 'what's your nickname?'" said Min. "Nicknames make the other fellow feel he's closer to you."

Dawn Zulueta: new name in lights

DAWN Zulueta possesses one of the most enchanting faces in show business, and is a promising performer as well. She is very "oow" in the way that she projects herself, which is why she has become a favorite with the young, trendy crowd.

The young actress is also being packaged as a musical star, but

this doesn't appear to be her best suit. She's better than some of the non-singers who "siog" on TV these days, but she has more going for her as an actress with it, contemporary roles. It should be only a matter of time before some canny filmmaker with an upbeat, project uses her to enhance the film with her bright-eyed, slightly sardonic air.



Dawn Zulueta

'The Yamashita treasure? It's all baloney'

By Ramon Francisco

AS the mystery on the alleged Yamashita treasure deepened, Japanese war crimes historian Minoru Fukumitsu gave out a hearty laugh at a press conference last week and said: "The Yamashita treasure? It's all baloney."

Fukumitsu, 75, who claimed to be a good friend of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos, said during the press conference at the Manila Hotel that "there is no such thing in the Philippines, and the search for gold at Fort Santiago is a waste of time, money, and effort."

The American researcher-turned-international consultant was reacting to reports that Malacanang had issued 87 permits for treasure hunts in various parts of the country.

Fukumitsu said that he interviewed about 10 former Japanese Imperial Army officers under Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, known as the "Tiger of Malaya," who led the last Japanese troops in the Philippines during World War II.

They all said that Yamashita left nothing in part of the Philippines. This was confirmed by my researches in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., he said.

Fukumitsu said that his two books — one of the Japanese Navy hospital ship "Awa Maru," and the other, on "The Release of Japanese War Criminals Confined in Muntinlupa and the Non-existing Yamashita Treasure" — document everything about the alleged gold bullion, cash, jewelry, and other valuables taken by the Japanese during World War II.

Fukumitsu, who said he has been to the Philippines hundreds of times since 1951, said: "Let's see what's going to come out of the Fort Santiago diggings."

"There may be buried Japanese war treasures in Formosa (Taiwan), but there's none in the Philippines," he added. "My friend hunting for gold somewhere in Montalban, Rizal, lost \$500,000 looking for nothing here."

Fukumitsu said that he was in the country on a "confidential mission." "As an international consultant," "I do anything but killing," he added.

During the press conference, he showed a copy of a picture of US Navy sailors loading what appeared to be sacks containing alleged Japanese war loot at Pearl Harbour, Honolulu, Hawaii, at the end of World War II.

Fukumitsu brushed off reports that gold has been found in Teresa, Antipolo, Rizal, and that there are seven places in Fort Santiago with buried gold treasure.

Although he did not see action during World War II, Fukumitsu, born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 28, 1913, said he served the US as a Japanese language (Nippoogo) teacher at a US Navy officers' school in Boulder, Colorado.

He recalled having defended Marcos from Washington Post columnist Jack Anderson who had accused the then President of stealing Japanese war treasures worth \$100 million.

"A word of advice to the treasure hunters at Fort Santiago — leave the historic place as it is. There's nothing there. Maoy came out from there with nothing," Fukumitsu said.

Stiffer penalties for child abusers

FORMER Member of Parliament Edith Nakpil Rabat, author of a bill prohibiting child prostitution and exploitation filed in the Batasang Pambansa, commended Immigration Commissioner Miriam Defensor Santiago.

"Commissioner Santiago's vigilance against child prostitution had a greater deterrent effect," Mrs Rabat said, "if the foreign pedophiles ordered deported for sexually devouring Filipino children were required to first serve sentences and pay the corresponding fines."

Mrs Rabat recalled that the bill she filed (PB 4311) contains a provision that "if the offender is a foreigner, he shall be ordered deported after service of sentence and payment of fine imposed."

She urged Congress to enact



Pedophiles approach a 15-year-old boy in Harrison Plaza, Manila.

an anti-child prostitution law with stiff penalties, stressing that the present penalty of deportation is insufficient.

"I personally feel that the penalty of deportation is not enough; it is very light to totally curb the social problem that threatens to debase the entire Filipino society," she said.

Mrs Rabat also advocated the enactment of a law with an "effective rehabilitation programme" for child-victims and stiff penalties for offenders.

not only to provide a curative response to the problem but also a rehabilitative foundation.

She called on public spirited citizens to initiate complaints where the parents or guardians are unable to do so or where they themselves are part of the evil network.

"Our children must be helped oow," she said. "They have waited long enough. To debase them is to debase our future. To protect them is to protect the future of our nation."

Saudi stint for pro-league players

TWO Philippine Basketball Association All-Star selections will set off on a rare Saudi Arabian sojourn in June to play exhibition matches in line with the country's observance of Independence Day.

This was announced late the other day by newly appointed PBA commissioner Rodrigo Salud after sitting down with members of the board in their final meeting before the start of the 1988 season.

Tour

Composed of the top 24 players in the league, the two All-Star team embark on a three-city, cross-country tour in the oil-rich Arab nation upon the invitation of the Fifelex, a group of Filipino expatriates based in Jeddah.

Both teams, scheduled to go up against each other in the western province of Dammam, the capital city of Riyadh on the east central side and Jeddah near the Red Sea, will likely have three-time MVP Ramon Fernandez and Robert Jaworski for their playing coaches.

The idea of staging goodwill games before Filipino contract workers in Saudi Arabia was hatched up by the Fifelex group, which sent the PBA a letter in August asking for the possibility of having professional players as guests.

In a response sent to the enterprising group, the PBA laid down the terms and conditions for the holding of exhibition matches, stipulating among others that the Fifelex finance the whole trip for a party of 40 people.

Fifelex is only awaiting the final approval of its board for the deal to be closed.

The trip will only take one week. (GA)

Kapilku photo contest, Mini Olympics

A PHOTOGRAPHY contest, is being organised by Kapilku and is open to all registered members of the organisation for 1988. Deadline for final submission of entries is March 31, 1988. Final judging will be held at the Philippine embassy, at 5 pm on April 1, 1988, and all entries submitted will be exhibited publicly as part of the Filipino Mini Olympics (Palaro 88) celebrations at the Keifan gymnasium.

Rules for the competition are as follows:

1. Theme of the contest is "the portrait and faces of Filipinos in Kuwait."

2. Sizes of entry picture: Minimum: 20 x 25 cm Maximum: 50 x 40 cm

3. Entry must be in black & white or coloured.

4. Entry must be mounted on a white illustration board with 2 inches margin from the edge of the picture.

5. All entries must be properly captioned or titled.

6. All entries must bear the participant's KPK ID Number. Entry forms are available and can be submitted to the following outlets:

1. Philippine embassy
2. Lord's restaurant
3. Mabuhay restaurant
4. Pinoy restaurant
5. Far East restaurant
6. Sunflower restaurant
7. Manila restaurant
Prizes are as follows:
First prize:
Gold medal
1 camera (SLR) plus case and film
Portrait photo at Boushari

studio
Second prize:
Silver medal
1 camera (SLR) plus case and film, portrait photo at Boushari studio
Third prize:
Bronze medal
1 camera (instantatic plus case and film portrait photo at Boushari studio

Prizes for consolation winners and special awards will be given by Boushari photo lab, Ashraf photo Co., and Photo and Cine. DEADLINE for submission of the list of participants, for the 1988 Palarong Pilipino '88 (Mini Olympics) is March 15, 1988. All teams should hand in their application forms to Boog Melencio, Tel: 4877793, Philippine embassy or to any Filipino restaurant.

Cory urged to shut US bases by 1991

By Nimfa U. Rueda

A BROAD coalition of cause-oriented groups urged President Aquino to assert the nation's sovereignty and shut down the US military bases in 1991.

In a letter to Aquino, the Campaign for a Sovereign Philippines, whose leaders ranged from militant leftists to nationalist legislators — said the bases constitute an infringement of the country's sovereignty and serve as "magnets" for nuclear attacks in case of war.

At the same time, Sen Wigberto Toada announced that at least 18 local governments have already declared their areas as nuclear weapons free zones.

Tanada said this development is indicative of the growing anti-bases sentiment in the country.

"Dumarami sa aog ating kasama sa ating poaglalaban, (We are gaining more support)," Tanada told CSP members and supporters who gathered at the National Press Club to launch a massive campaign against the presence of US military facilities in the country.

Tanada said local government officials representing about 10

million people have filed resolutions declaring their cities, towns and provinces as nuclear weapons free zones.

The letter signed by Tanada and four other congressmen said the review of the bases pact, which is scheduled to start in March, should concentrate on conditions for a continuation of the agreement but on determining how the bases can be dismantled with the least negative social impact.

"No amount of economic aid promised in exchange for the bases can possibly overcome the destabilising process that they bring, and the incalculable social cost which they exact in terms of our people's health, morals and psychological dependency," the letter said.

Other signatories included five former members of the Constitutional Commission, several local government officials and leaders of some 60 cause-oriented groups.

The launching activity started with a morning mass marking the first death anniversary of the late nationalist Sen. Jose W. Diokno which was followed by a 50-car motorcade around Metro Manila.

US training for boxers

VETERAN internationalists Leopoldo Cantancio, Leopoldo Serrantes, Crisologo Flores and two other top graduates of a weekly boxing programme will be sent to the United States in a bid to shore up the country's chances for medals in the Seoul Olympics.

Only Cantancio, Serrantes and Flores, however, have been named as sure members of the US-bound squad as the Amateur

Boxing Association of the Philippines has yet to make known its fourth and fifth choices, who would come from the Manila Beer Boxing at the Park series.

ABAP president Rolio Golez said that the fighters plus a staff of coaches and other team officials have been invited by the Florida Boxing Academy. They are to be funded by contributions from Filipino sports associations in the States.

Maids ban: Malaysia may be exempt

KUALA LUMPUR, (PNA-Bernama): The Philippine authorities may consider exempting Malaysia from their temporary suspension of overseas employment of Filipino maids if they are paid a minimum monthly salary of \$150, according to a local maid recruitment agents association.

Association of Agents of Domestic Helpers spokesman Richard Ng told Bernama the ruling might initially affect the demand for Filipino maids who were currently paid about \$120 in this country.

He said local recruiting agents did not impose the \$150 ruling previously because the salary was "too high" for Malaysian employers.

Ng said two Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) officials visited Malaysia Friday to study problems faced by Filipino maids employed in this country.

He said cases of abuse of Filipino maids as reported in many countries would not occur here as they were generally "well treated."

The worldwide ban, was imposed after the Philippine government received reports of many maids being physically abused, sexually harassed, or under-paid.

Travel requirements for haj pilgrims waived

MUSLIM Affairs Secretary JAMIL Diaalan announced recently Malacanang's approval of the waiver of travel requirements this year for Muslim Filipino pilgrims to Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

Diaalan said the President, through Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig approved the following: travel tax and other taxes incident to travel abroad, police and similar type of clearances, reduction of passport fee from P500 to P300 and airport fee and quarantine fee.

Each pilgrim, he said, saves at least P2,500 and are spared the inconvenience of getting various clearances and other travel requirements.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Europeans protest over S.African moves to block foreign funds

CAPE TOWN, March 12, (Reuters): The European Economic Community protested to South Africa today over government moves to block foreign funding for anti-apartheid groups.

West German Ambassador Immo Stahreit met Deputy Foreign Minister Kobus Meiring to voice European concern over the legislation recently introduced to parliament, a South African government statement said.

The legislation, known as the promotion of orderly internal politics bill, would prohibit the use of foreign funds for political purposes.

Political analysts and diplomats say the new powers could cripple a wide range of anti-apartheid groups that depend heavily on foreign funds.

Crackdown

The legislation is seen as a tightening of the government crackdown on black dissidents. Pretoria virtually banned 17 anti-apartheid groups last month, saying they were fuelling a revolutionary climate in South Africa.

Meiring, deputising for Foreign Minister P. Botha, who is visiting Chile, told Stahreit that the government welcomed foreign contributions to socio-economic programmes.

But foreign funds were often used for political purposes and to further the door's political aims, he said.

West German embassy spokesman was not immediately available for comment. West Germany currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Economic Community.

Mubarak opens trade fair

CAIRO, March 12, (Reuters): Cairo's international trade fair opened today with the absence of Israel for the first time since it signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979.

President Hosni Mubarak opened the fair, which in 1986 was the scene of the killing of an Israeli embassy official by a radical group known as "Egypt's Revolution".

Israel's empty pavilion at the fair grounds in northern Cairo was heavily guarded during the opening ceremonies.

An Israeli embassy official in Cairo declined to say why his country was not participating but said that Israeli feeling has mounted in Egypt during the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Egyptian prosecutors also recently demanded the death sentence for members of "Egypt's Revolution," including the eldest son of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The UAE is exhibiting at the two-week fair for the first time since most of the Arab world cut ties with Egypt because of its peace treaty with Israel.

An Arab League summit in Amman last year cleared the way for Arab countries to resume ties with Egypt but the UAE is the only Arab country apart from Sudan taking part in the Cairo fair this year.

Several analysts think Opec will discreetly trim production

North Sea oil rebounds above \$15

LONDON, March 12, (Reuters): North Sea oil prices rose above \$15 a barrel yesterday for the first time in more than two weeks, suggesting that a recent slide in the market might have bottomed out, traders said.

A cargo of crude from Britain's Brent field, a barometer of world spot prices, changed hands at \$15.23 a barrel for loading in May, the most actively traded month.

Spot, over-the-counter prices are more than a dollar above lows touched nine days ago. But, in a market awash with surplus oil, they remain below the \$18 a barrel which the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is trying to charge for contract sales.

Several cash-pitched organisation sellers are having to offer discounts on the \$18 price.

Traders said the partial recovery of spot prices, which

have been easing since November, may not last. Some took the view that they were rallying solely because traders are covering short positions taken out over recent weeks.

Panicked

"Some people panicked this morning," one said.

A rally in New York on Thursday followed the reports that Opec was considering output cuts to mop up the prevailing glut.

"There was a lot of huying interest off a report that Opec is planning production cuts," said Stephen Platt, oil futures analyst with Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc. in New York.

But an Opec spokesman said the report was "unfounded."

"The market is nervous," Platt said. "Players are expecting Opec to take more decisive action to halt the oil price slide."

The price of Dubai crude, the

most widely traded Middle Eastern grade, has also risen from about \$12.87 to \$13.60 in the past two days.

Market sources said this followed an apparent decision by Abu Dhabi to charge future supplies to Japanese buyers at Opec-mandated prices, and to limit discounts — which were being made retractive — to sales in the recent past.

Oil analyst Mehdi Varzi of London stockbrokers Kleinwort Greaves said a high volume of gasoil in Europe also helped firm crude oil prices.

"Iran, picking up what is an astonishing tonnage of gasoil, wipes out a major amount of the surplus in northwest Europe," he said.

Traders and brokers said yesterday that a West German trading house had sold Iran some 240,000 to 250,000 tonnes of

gasoil, used for diesel fuel and heating. It was gathering the refined product, from deliveries to the market from Soviet and other refineries, to load onto a very large crude carrier (VLCC), possibly next week.

Iran is a regular importer of oil products, as many of its refineries have been damaged in the Gulf war. But the volume in the pre-cut deal surprised the market.

Tanker brokers said the 284,299-tonne Patria had been chartered by a West German firm, Marimpex, to carry 240,000 tonnes of gasoil from Rotterdam to the Gulf.

Michael Unsworth, chief oil analyst at brokers Smith New Court, said that, even if crude oil prices begin slipping again, "we are not in a 1986 situation."

Prices crashed below \$9 that year during a bout of ruinous Opec overproduction.

Meanwhile, top officials of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp said today that Opec president Rikman Lukman was unlikely to call an emergency meeting of the organisation during the next 10 days because of the Nigerian Oil Minister's busy schedule at home.

An assistant to Lukman said the minister was scheduled to accompany President Gen. Ibrahim Babangida at the commissioning of three oil-related projects in the next 10 days.

"It is most likely that the Opec president will be able to call an emergency conference of ministers before March 21 and that will be if the market is unable to firm up by then," the assistant said.

Several analysts think Opec will discreetly trim production, now estimated at about 17.5 million barrels a day, to overcome the huge glut.

Panama seen taking years to recover as financial centre

US increases economic pressure on Noriega

PANAMA CITY, Panama, March 12, (AP): Panamanians who have been unable to cash their cheques for 10 days face cuts in public services today as Washington increased economic pressure on the government to force Panama's strongman to resign.

US President Ronald Reagan yesterday froze millions of dollars in Panamanian assets in the United States and again called on Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega to step down as chief of the 15,000-member defence force.

Payments

Panama's new chief executive, Manuel Solis Palma, met with his cabinet in an emergency session yesterday.

He was to meet with the cabinet again today "to work out a total package plan to deal with the crisis, especially a payment plan for public employees who must be paid by March 15," said

an official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government reportedly was considering delaying or reducing payments due on Tuesday to nearly 150,000 government employees.

Banks closed March 1 because of the lack of currency, leaving Panamanians holding cheques they cannot cash. Panama's currency is the US dollar.

Solis Palma, ordered reductions in public services yesterday as the government's coffers ran low.

The government ordered cutbacks in electricity and fuel consumption, telephone and public vehicles use. It also announced a two-hour reduction in working hours for government offices.

Reagan said the United States will place fees due to Panama this month from the Panama Canal into escrow until a government led by ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle can claim them.

A \$6.6-million payment of Canal fees is due on Tuesday.

Pro-Noriega legislators ousted Delvalle from the presidency on Feb 26, a day after Delvalle tried to fire Noriega. Solis Palma was named to replace Delvalle, who has been in hiding since.

The United States continues to recognise Delvalle as Panama's legitimate president.

Service

Reagan also suspended trade preferences granted Panama and ordered increased scrutiny of the country by US immigration and customs service officials to "apprehend drug traffickers and money launderers."

"I believe that Gen. Noriega would best serve his country by complying with the instruction of President Delvalle to relinquish his post," Reagan said, calling Noriega's regime illegitimate.

Noriega was indicted last month in the United States on

drug trafficking and money laundering charges.

Boris Moreno, a Panamanian government spokesman, said the US actions created a "state of war" and set a dangerous precedent.

"This means that if the United States government does not like the government of another country, it can withhold any funds deposited in the United States," he said.

Noriega made no comment on Reagan's new sanctions. An official statement by the Foreign Ministry on the US actions was expected.

Riot police firing tear gas grenades and spraying a stinging, acrid liquid from canisters prevented opposition parties from holding a demonstration in the central banking district yesterday.

Three journalists were injured when police sprayed tear-gas in their faces at close range. They

were: Lucia Annunziata, a reporter with the newspaper La Repubblica of Rome; David Walters, a photographer with the Miami Herald; and Maouilo Iscala, a cameraman for Spanish television.

Crisis

The US sanctions were expected to deepen a cash-flow crisis that has forced Panamanian banks to close for 10 consecutive days. Attorneys for Delvalle have tied up an estimated \$50 million in official Panamanian funds in private US banks.

The government yesterday asked owners of four supermarket chains, a department store and pharmacy chain to act as cheque-cashing houses for government employees. The owners refused, saying it was up to the central bank to guarantee government cheques.

Businesses have been accepting cash only.

Japan might step up investments in Latin America

WASHINGTON, March 12, (UPI): Inter-American Development Bank president Antonio Ortiz Mena, saying his last year as head of the lending institution was "a difficult one for the bank," announced yesterday Japan might step up investments in Latin America.

Ortiz Mena, who headed the 44-member international organisation for 17 years, said he was resigning and returning to Mexico, which is holding presidential elections this year. He did not say, however, whether he was considering playing any role in the new Mexican administration.

Possibility

"Last year was a difficult year for the bank due to the general downturn of the economy in Latin American countries, the lack of projects to be internationally financed, and the devaluation of the dollar," he said in a farewell press conference yesterday at bank headquarters.

But he stressed the possibility of Japan substantially increasing its investments in the IDB.

"We have been discussing an agreement with Japan for greater

investments," Ortiz Mena said. "So far, it is with no strings attached."

Asked whether Japan was asking for a larger voting power in exchange for increased investments, he answered, "yes, it is being discussed, but we have to reach an agreement."

Japan is the IDB's third largest contributor, after the United States and Canada, but holds only one per cent of the voting shares.

The US has lobbied to have its 34.5 per cent voting share on the IDB board receive a veto status, which would place the institution's policy under direct control by Washington, a move generally resisted by receiving countries.

Challenge

Despite this, Ortiz Mena said relations with the United States remained "very good, although many countries have different criteria at times."

Ortiz Mena, who will be replaced next week at the IDB by Enrique Iglesias of Uruguay, said the leading institution's main challenge in the years to come will be to define "a new

approach to transform the bank and meet the needs of Latin American countries."

"It could be the equivalent of a grace period ... through any scheme that could permit substantial investments for no less than five years."

The IDB includes 19 industrialised countries lending to 26 developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

System

"Very clearly, Latin American countries cannot fulfil their commitments regarding their foreign debt, unless they record economic growth, and for this, they need new investments," he said.

"The new approach would benefit not only the developing countries, but the industrialised countries as well, including the United States."

Ortiz Mena, however, denied he was suggesting a moratorium on the Latin American borrowers' debt to the IDB, but just wanted to emphasise the need to end negative cash flow in the region.

"It is urgent to create a new, imaginative system that could be developed in connection with the

external debt," he said.

He said that Iglesias, who takes over the IDB leadership on March 15, will go to Caracas, Venezuela, next week for a meeting with member countries representatives, study the situation and make recommendations.

The United States, facing its own deficit crisis, said it cannot make further leading commitments to the IDB, or other international institutions, without prior congressional approval.

Ortiz Mena said the IDB lost 1.2 billion in 1987, due to the weak dollar. The lending institution borrows about 75 per cent of its funds from banks in Japan, West Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, whose currencies sharply appreciated against the dollar last year.

He predicted that the IDB would lose up to \$2 billion in 1988 because of the dollar erosion and the repayment of IDB borrowings to stronger currencies.

IDB loans are for development in the fields of energy, education, health, transportation and urban development.

Verity critical of US banks' lending policies

WASHINGTON, March 12, (UPI): US Commerce Secretary William Verity says American banks have gone too far in withdrawing export financing for goods destined for debtor countries.

Without an adequate supply of credit, US efforts to expand exports would be hampered, he told a group of bankers and exporters on Thursday at a conference sponsored by the Export-Import Bank.

"Higher exports create demand for private credit to supply our shipments," he said, "yet US banks have been withdrawing from export lending."

Verity said foreign banks now did much of their lending for US export sales. Many of them had established US offices, using export lending as a "lure" to gain customers.

"Banking is the country needs to review the situation and give serious consideration to the market for trade credit," he suggested.

World Business Summary

Belgian diamond trade sparkles, says report

ANTWERP, Belgium, March 12, (Reuters): Belgium's diamond tradesparkled in 1987, with sales unaffected by the crash on world stock markets in October, the industry said yesterday. The Antwerp-based Diamond High Council said in its annual report that turnover rose in value last year by 21.5 per cent to \$9.5 billion. The share crash had no effect on trade, with sales of finished stones to the United States — the world's largest polished stone importer — buoyant at Christmas, Mark Van Den Abeelen, the council's director general, told a news conference. Trade was expected to grow at the same rate in 1988 thanks to a surge in demand on the back of a world economic revival, Walter Burt, the council's spokesman, told Reuters. Antwerp was also set to maintain its position as the world's leading diamond trade centre, he added. In 1987, Antwerp accounted for 85 per cent of world trade in rough diamonds and over 50 per cent of trade and manufacturing in polished stones.

Diamond sales last year accounted for six per cent of Belgium's exports and two per cent of its Gross National Product — a key measure of a country's economic activity. Imports of the gems rose 20.7 per cent in 1987 to \$4.2 billion. Exports grew 26.4 per cent to \$4.5 billion.

But Belgium's diamond industry, which specialises in polishing and cutting rough diamonds, was hit by competition from countries with lower labour costs, the council said.

"We are going to fight to get a share of this trade back," Van Den Abeelen said. The diamond industry last year only employed 6,324 people compared with 15,000 of a decade ago.

Productivity remained high, Van Den Abeelen said. But the industry needed government help to fight competition from Israel, India and countries in Southeast Asia.

Mexico to try other ways of trimming its foreign debt

WASHINGTON, March 12, (Reuters): Mexico will continue efforts to reduce its \$105-billion debt despite a rapid response to its recent bond-for-loans exchange offer, Angel Gurria, the country's chief debt negotiator, said yesterday. "We're probably going to try a number of variations on this scheme," Gurria told a conference organised by the US Export-Import Bank. He said commercial banks had already proposed a number of ideas, and other debtors would probably come up with suggestions, too. Mexico's offer last December to issue new, higher-yielding bonds backed by US Treasury securities in exchange for the \$53 billion in discounted loans held by commercial banks was worthwhile, even though it drew a lukewarm response, Gurria conceded. Only \$1.1 billion of debt was retired, instead of the 10 billion that was hoped for, the government announced last week. Gurria said this was just a "small dent in the armour." To ease the burden on developing countries, legislators, regulators and international financial institutions must develop a new framework for debt reduction, Gurria said. "We are sorely lacking such a mechanism," he said.

One idea worth promoting was a provision in the US trade bill passed last year by the House of Representatives that would require the Reagan administration to seek the creation of a multilateral financial institution to buy Third World loans from banks at a discount, Gurria said.

The chairman of American Express Company, James Robinson, and the Indian executive director of the International Monetary Fund, Arjun Sen Gupta, have made broadly similar debt relief proposals recently. US Congressman Don Pease on Thursday introduced a bill that would direct Treasury Secretary James Baker to negotiate the establishment of a special IMF facility that would issue bonds to banks in exchange for the loans of 17 highly indebted countries.

Japan retains largest share in world ship orders

TOKYO, March 12, (Xinhua): Japan secured orders for 548 new ships in 1987, the highest number in the world, despite a drop below 40 per cent for the first time in 12 years, the Japan Ship Exporters' Association (JSEA) said. The new orders received by Japan amounted to 4.77 million gross tons and represented 34.7 per cent of the world's total.

The JSEA noted that last year, new ship orders worldwide totalled 1,464 or 13.77 million tons, up nine per cent in tonnage over the year 1986. It was the first time since 1975, when the association started compiling such statistics that Japan's share went below 40 per cent. South Korea, which received 149 new ships or 4.16 million tons, last year, ranked second with a share of 30.2 per cent. West European countries, including Federal Germany and France, received orders for a total of 495 ships (2.57 million tons), setting an 18.7 per cent share, the JSEA said. The association blamed the sharp appreciation of the Japanese yen for the shrinkage of 14 per cent in Japan's new ship orders from the year 1986 in terms of tonnage.

It said West European countries, enjoying booming shipbuilding business led by brisk sales of large-sized ships, and saw new orders soar by 54 per cent. South Korea also posted a 36 per cent jump in orders, the JSEA said.

Investment likely to increase

OTTAWA, March 12, (Xinhua): Canadian business investment in fixed assets is expected to increase by 17.3 per cent this year, the biggest rise since the 1981-1982 recession, Statistics Canada has predicted. According to the statistics released yesterday, the private sector is expected to spend 72.1 billion dollars (\$57.32 billion) in 1988, 17.3 per cent more than the estimated 61.5 billion dollars (\$48.9 billion) for 1987. Given fears about the economic outlook in the wake of the New York stock market crash last October, economists are encouraged by the data. They said it appears that business investment will spur economic growth. The spending intentions are based on a survey of about 27,000 establishments. Among industries, the greatest turnaround is a 37.8 per cent increase in spending on petroleum and gas wells following a 20.1 per cent decrease in 1987. Manufacturing expenditures — led by paper products, transportation equipment, primary metals, wood, food and beverages — will rise by 22.8 per cent, while spending in the utilities industry is expected to climb by 22.6 per cent.

Economists said the survey supports more optimistic economic forecasts for 1988. A 3-per cent economic growth for this year now seems possible.

Business boosts for Terminal 4

ON March 1 British Airways opened a stylish new lounge and a business centre for business travellers at Heathrow's Terminal 4. Airways' new business classes — are invited to use the facilities which cater specifically for the needs of the business traveller.

The new Club World Lounge is one of a suite of British Airways lounges in Terminal 4.

The lounge with seating capacity for 180, can handle over 700 passengers daily, and is equipped with complimentary drinks; English and foreign language publications; television room; telephones; Reuters news service; showers and toilet facilities; and an integral duty free shop.

The Business Centre on the floor above the Club World lounge will provide an extension of the busy executive's office with four small conference rooms for private meetings.

The Club World Lounge is located in the departures area beneath British Airways Speedwing and Oasis Lounges.

Record petrochemical earnings boost oil company profits

SPECTACULAR performance in petrochemicals is giving a boost to profits for North American oil and gas companies.

For many of the integrated oil companies that report petrochemical earnings, profits in that segment more than doubled in the fourth quarter 1987 from the same time a year ago.

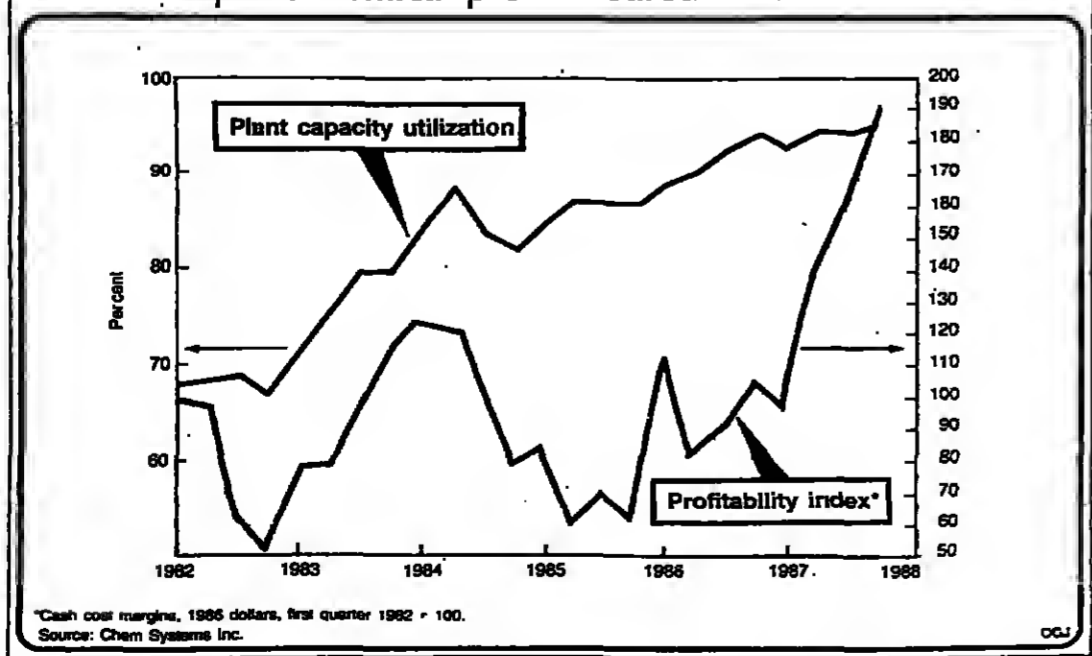
A survey of 14 US and Canadian companies whose main activity is oil and gas operations showed they posted an 84 per cent jump in petrochemical profits to \$3.67 billion in 1987 from the year before, according to Oil & Gas Journal.

Overall profitability of petrochemical operations in the US almost doubled in the past year from 1986, according to an index developed by Chem Systems Inc. (CSI), Tarrytown, N.Y.

The collapse in oil prices helped stimulate petrochemical profits in 1986 as feedstock costs fell. The spike in profitability began in first quarter 1987. Surging demand for most petrochemical products was spurred by economic growth and a weaker dollar.

With demand up, a sharply reduced industry capacity stemming from restructuring and consolidation of the early 1980s, low feedstock costs, and product price boosts helped hike petrochemical profits to record levels

How U.S. petrochemical profits soared in '87



*Cash cost margins, 1986 dollars, first quarter 1982 = 100.

Source: Chem Systems Inc.

last year.

The strong earnings growth in 1987 was paced by a surprisingly strong fourth quarter. Companies at the fourth quarter's outset worried that the stock market crash and its economic repercussions, along with rising oil prices

last year, would dampen demand and profits for petrochemicals. However, companies reported a sizable jump in petrochemical exports as the dollar continued to fall. They also cited a benefit from lower federal tax rates as a result of tax reform.

Many companies managed to further reduce operating costs as restructuring measures continued. Companies with the broadest chemical bases fared the best. DuPont Co. said revenues for its chemical and specialty

products segments rose 11 per cent, reflecting a 7 per cent increase in volume and a 4 per cent increase in sale prices.

Its US volume was up 6 per cent and international volume up 8 per cent. DuPont's US prices increased 1 per cent, while international prices were 11 per cent higher, essentially due to the translation effect of the weaker dollar.

Earnings

But there were some exceptions to the pattern of stronger petrochemical earnings. Agricultural chemical results in the US and Canada continued to suffer from weak North American markets for fertilisers.

Shell Oil Co. reported a drop in earnings for agricultural chemicals to \$272 million from \$623 million in 1986.

BP America's chemicals earnings fell sharply because of higher raw material cost and losses in the lightweight composite materials sector.

Companies still are active in targeting petrochemicals' financial performance to improve their earnings reports for the long term. And they persist in restructuring and consolidation efforts to focus on market strengths.

Petrochemical producers are mapping near term and long term strategies as they see a

growth market lasting through the 1990s.

Some worry about a lack of emphasis on research spending because so much capital is earmarked for capacity expansions and paying off debt incurred in restructuring.

Ashtand Oil Inc. had record first quarter 1988 chemical earnings of \$24 million for the 3 months ended Dec 31, 1987.

Mobil Corp. attributed its strong 1987 petrochemical earnings to higher polyethylene and polystyrene margins as demand strengthened for these products.

Margins for Mobil plastics also improved because of increased volumes in the oriented polypropylene films and consumer products lines.

Shell's chemical revenues showed the highest year to year gains for primary products (olefins, aromatics) \$1.045 billion vs \$631 million, intermediates and solvents \$1.237 billion vs \$1.165 billion, and polymers \$944 million vs \$797 million.

Amoco Oil Co. posted its second consecutive year of record chemical earnings.

"Worldwide demand for chemical and polymer products continued to be exceptionally strong, resulting in higher sales volumes and improved margins for most products," Amoco said.

Bonn GNP growth quickens

US export demand continues to surge

THE dollar traded slightly nervously in generally quiet trading, with few meaningful data releases this week. The US unit edged downwards over the week to current Y127, DM 1.66, and with sterling's significant gain, to £1.85.

The apparent reason for this slippage was sparked in the UK where the change in exchange rate policy portrays less central bank intervention for the future and this would suggest that should the dollar come under pressure the UK cannot be relied upon to intervene in its defence.

The cross £/DM rate therefore effectively drove the market and the dollar lower.

Housing completions fell 5.2 per cent in January, following a revised increase in December of 2.5 per cent. This was against the markets expectations of a decline of only 2.4 per cent.

Retail sales rose \$174 million, approximately 0.6 per cent, in February, to a seasonally adjusted \$128 billion. This compares with a rise of 1.2 per cent in December and a 0.3 per cent increase in November.

The January figure was revised to a 0.2 per cent decline from the original estimate of a rise of 0.5 per cent.

Producers Price Index fell 0.2 per cent in February after increasing 0.4 per cent in January.

The December figure was a fall of 0.4 per cent.

Expectations
The market waits in quiet anticipation of next week's trade numbers, with market expectations of an above \$13 billion deficit.

Whilst the previous two months decline in trade numbers is grounds for optimism, with numbers indicating a possible turning point, a continued improvement of this magnitude is improbable.

The surge in factory orders does indicate that export demand will continue to push ahead, however, on balance, January's trade numbers may show a slight widening from December's gap.

This could undoubtedly serve to weaken the dollar and a figure significantly above the \$13 billion mark would certainly test the current lower trading ranges.

Such an eventuality would be unfavourable to the bond and equity markets. The dollar trading ranges this week are expected to be a narrow \$/DM 1.65-1.68 and Y125-129.

However, against the possibility of extreme sterling volatility a broad £/DM 1.80-1.90 range is not inconceivable.

Stance
As considered last week, sterling broke the DM 3.00 level amongst widespread market surprise at the obvious change in UK exchange rate policy.

The lack of central bank intervention was the first sign of the shift in policy stance.

Subsequent utterances from official sources confirmed that keeping sterling within a narrow DM parity is no longer a prime objective. This stance very much reflects the Prime Minister's view and undoubtedly runs counter to the Chancellor's preference for a solid sterling policy.

As discussed last week, the obvious shift in policy brought a surge to the sterling market with the sterling gaining 8 pence with many investors taking advantage of the high interest rate differential.

Sterling ended the week at its highest level for 18 months at DM 3.08, \$1.85 and Y237.

The announcement of no change in interest rate policy left the bond and equity markets relatively unaffected although a downward drifting occurred towards the end of the week.

This sharp change in policy undoubtedly marks a period of greater volatility for sterling for the coming months.

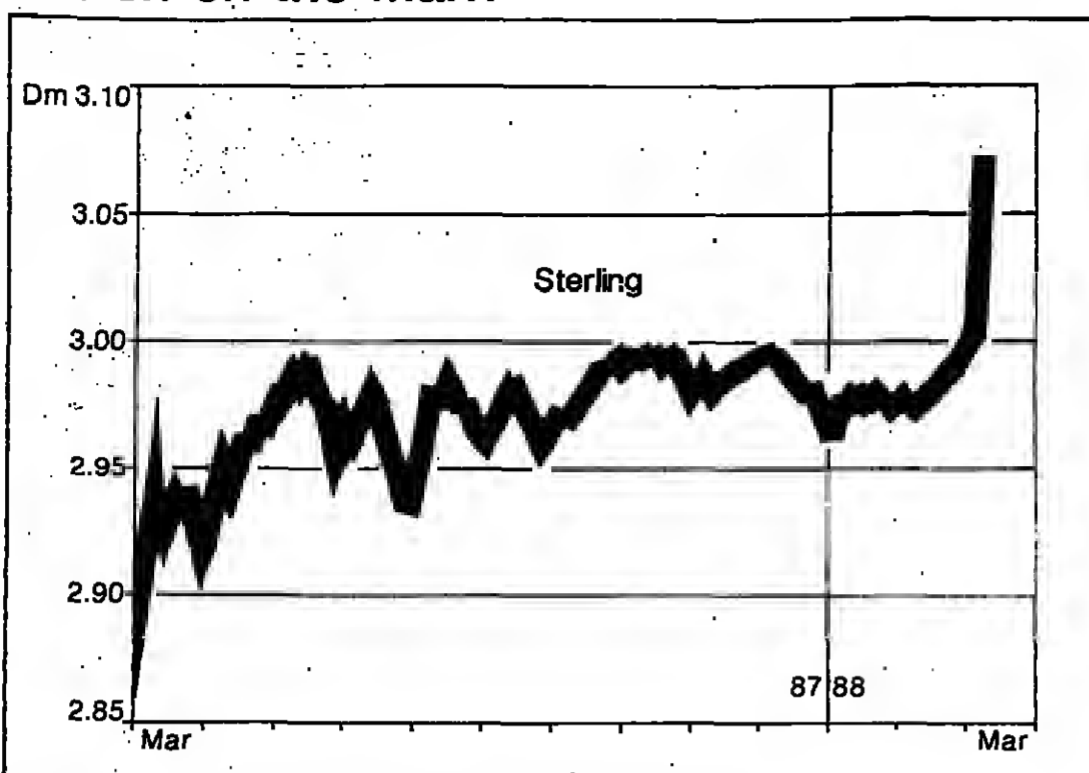
Whilst markets have been positively anticipating a favourable economic statement in Tuesday's budget, negative factors could very easily reverse the upward trend.

Therefore, its immediate gains could just as easily be dissipated.

However, a further surge in sterling must be anticipated in the run-up to and in the aftermath of the Budget.

A good budget perceived by the market would embrace sufficient tax cuts to maintain growth momentum but not in excess to allow an overall budget deficit — this is at present considered to be the most likely outcome.

March on the mark



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Further positive news came from the manufacturing industry which provided a 3.7 per cent rise in the month of January.

This would continue to suggest the economy is still putting in a positive performance with a 1 per cent real GNP for the year as a whole anticipated.

Japan's trade surplus continues to decline for the 10th consecutive month.

The fall is \$5.2 billion in February represents a 26.5 per cent narrowing on the \$27.1 billion a year earlier.

Although exports continue to perform positively at 17.2 per cent, imports surged by almost 50 per cent.

Japan's surplus with the US also narrowed by 15 per cent on a 52 per cent rise of US imports. This argues relatively well for a continued improvement in US trade numbers.

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trading volume rises slightly

ALSHALL Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday a new peak of 32.85 points with a decrease of 0.55 points from last week. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 47.30 points with a decrease of 0.52 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 22.46 million shares at a daily average of 4.49 million shares with an increase of 12 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 4.01 million shares. Gulf traded shares reached 43.15 million shares at a daily average of 8.63 million shares with an increase of 6 per cent over last week's daily average of 8.12 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD8.415 million while it was KD1.0 million for the Gulf traded shares.

The market returned to its weak performance for both Kuwaiti and Gulf shares although it was more obvious for the latter especially when the difference in traded volume and value is considered.

For Kuwaiti shares the Banking Sector had the lead at 45.5 per cent of total trading volume. The Gulf Bank had the highest percentage of trading at 38 per cent of the sector's total, followed by Kuwait National Bank at 24 per cent and the Commercial Bank at 16 per cent.

The Services Sector came second with a relatively low percentage of 18 per cent of total trading.

Kuwaiti commercial markets had the lead at 66 per cent of this sector's total, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 24 per cent and Kuwait Computer Co. 10 per cent.

The Insurance Sector ranked third — which is unusual for this sector — at 16.8 per cent within which Alahiah Insurance Co. had the highest traded volume at 97 per cent followed by Warba at only 2 per cent.

For Gulf shares the Other Companies Sector ranked first at 77 per cent of total trading volume.

Ras Al Khaima White Cement had the lead at 40 per cent of total Gulf shares trading, followed by Fujairah Cement 26 per cent, then Gulf Investment Company 11 per cent.

It seems that the market is becoming less responsive to support announcements and unless such announcements are followed by a clear action they might produce adverse effects.

The same logic applies to the latest rumour that the government had stopped the sale of its shares portfolio and is expected to give a directive to the companies to buy 10 per cent of their shares.

However, the market previous developments might be a good reason for avoiding issuing announcements and interference in the market in the future leaving the market forces to determine the fair price of shares.

Kuwait shareholding companies index
Wednesday 09/03/88 Wednesday 02/03/88 Change points

Banking Sector
Kuwait National Bank 88.27 90.29 -2.03
The Gulf Bank 29.35 31.03 -1.68
The Commercial Bank 21.43 21.77 -0.35
Al Ahli Bank 28.83 30.76 -1.92
Bank of Kuwait & M. East 28.06 26.31 1.75
Kuwait R. Estate Bank 31.75 31.75 -
Burgan Bank 24.78 25.27 -0.50
Kuwait Finance House 63.55 64.88 -1.34
Sector Index 39.93 40.78 -0.85

Investment Sector
Kuwait Investment Co. 34.85 34.85 -
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co. 28.18 26.80 1.37

Inv-Pearl Kuwait
IFA 85.71 85.71 -
Commercial Facilities 74.94 79.41 -1.47
Sector Index 96.59 96.59 -
Insurance Sector 41.82 41.49 0.33

Kuwait Insurance Co. 38.60 38.60 -
Gulf Insurance Co. 28.46 28.46 -
Al Ahlia Insurance Co. 50.33 47.93 2.40
Warba Insurance Co. 84.19 83.33 0.86
Sector Index 40.30 39.67 0.43

Real Estate Sector
Kuwait Real Estate 30.59 31.61 -1.02
United Realty 13.18 13.63 -0.45
National Real Estate 45.39 45.79 -0.40
Sector Index 22.90 23.59 -0.61

Industrial Sector
Kuwait Cement Co. 16.22 16.22 -
Refrigeration Indust. 80.51 80.51 -
Gulf Cables 97.70 99.76 -2.06
Kuwait Pharmaceutical 56.00 57.78 -1.78
Sector Index 31.35 31.67 -0.32

Services Sector
Kuwait Computer Co. 213.84 220.32 -6.48
Kuwait Cinema Co. 9.89 10.37 0.48
Public Warehousing Co. 75.76 75.76 -
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co. 40.95 41.95 -1.00
Mobile Telephone Syst. 361.90 366.67 -4.76
Sector Index 66.38 67.85 -0.98

Food Sector
Livestock Trad. & Transp. 49.63 49.63 -
United Fisheries 9.92 9.92 -
Kuwait United Poultry 87.28 87.28 -
Kuwait Food Co. 73.56 71.26 2.30
Sector Index 44.18 43.76 0.39

Overall Index 37.85 38.40 -0.55

Gulf shareholding companies index
Wednesday 09/03/88 Wednesday 02/03/88 Change points

Financial Companies
First Gulf Bank 228.95 228.95 -
United Gulf Bank 34.48 34.48 -
Bahrain Internat. Bank 91.03 93.79 -2.76
Bahrain M. East Bank 89.22 91.12 -1.90
Gulf Investments Co. 61.76 61.76 -
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co. 79.65 80.52 -0.87
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro. 70.35 71.13 -0.77
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shua) 60.61 59.85 0.76
Sector Index 64.83 65.44 -0.61

Other Companies
Gulf Cement (fully paid) 13.25 12.83 0.43
Sharjah Cement 10.50 11.00 -0.50
Fujairah Cement 10.53 11.84 -1.32
Ajman Cement 10.00 10.00 -
Ras Al-Khaima W. Cement 20.00 20.56 -0.56
Gulf Medical Projects 18.21 18.21 -
Poultry & Fodder R. Alkha 36.36 36.36 -
Sector Index 14.14 14.49 -0.35

Overall Index 47.30 47.82 -0.52
Base Period 31/12/1983.

— Pearl Investment Co. was delisted upon a request from the company to the stock exchange.

Kuwait dinar deposit rates hit '88 lows

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates plunged to 1988 lows yesterday amid high liquidity caused mainly by maturing Treasury bills.

But trading was minimal and only a few deals in one-month funds were reported in the fixed periods. Banks were flush with funds and expecting new liquidity later in the week from monthly salaries.

The short dates were well-offered at 1/4 per cent from 1/2 per cent levels on Thursday, with at least one spot-next trade at the 1/4 per cent level.

One-week was offered at one per cent with few or no bids. The fixed periods were quoted up to 1/2 point below Thursday levels at three, 2-3/4 per cent for the one-month, 4-1/8, 3-3/4 per cent for the three-month, 4-3/4, 1/4 per cent for the six-month and five, 4-5/8 per cent for the one-year.

Rate
The one-month dealt at 3-1/8 and three per cent early in the day.

exchange rate was firmer at 0.27396/406 to the dollar from Thursday's 0.27464/74. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27400/07.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposits were steady in very quiet trade yesterday, typical for the European weekend when many offshore banks are absent from the market.

Dealers said volume was minimal but lower oil prices had revived speculation the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama) may devalue the riyal to compensate for a corresponding decline in the Kingdom's dollar-denominated oil income.

The move would be good for Saudi banks because it will help boost their profits, one dealer said. "It would also lower deposit rates, which is what Sama wants before it issues bonds."

Bonds
The market has been nervously awaiting further news on the issue of up to 30 billion riyals of Saudi government bonds.

A positive Public Sector Borrowing Requirement figure would be considered adverse and could very quickly take sterling lower.

Longer term the UK balance of payments deficit and a possible cut in interest rates may see many investors realising their profits and making a quick exit, irrespective of a possible further surge in sterling the downside risks on current rates remain very much in play.

Rise
Concerns over excess demand, have weakened the exchange rate considerations and therefore interest rates have remained unaffected by sterling's rise.

However, irrespective of the Prime Minister's verbal concerns over inflation, which suggest that interest rates will continue at current levels, a cut coming at the time of the budget cannot be ruled out as this has become almost a tradition.

West Germany
Data releases this week indicate that total output of goods and services grew slightly more than previously indicated in the fourth quarter of 1987 by a real 0.5 per cent.

Further positive news came from the manufacturing industry which provided a 3.7 per cent rise in the month of January.

This would continue to suggest the economy is still putting in a positive performance with a 1 per cent real GNP for the year as a whole anticipated.

Japan's trade surplus continues to decline for the 10th consecutive month.

The fall is \$5.2 billion in February represents a 26.5 per cent narrowing on the \$27.1 billion a year earlier.

Although exports continue to perform positively at 17.2 per cent, imports surged by almost 50 per cent.

Japan's surplus with the US also narrowed by 15 per cent on a 52 per cent rise of US imports. This argues relatively well for a continued improvement in US trade numbers.

Chamber chief leaves for Cairo

THE President of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqer yesterday left here for Cairo on a four-day visit to Egypt to explore the possibilities of Kuwaiti investments in that country.

Before leaving, Al Saqer told Kuna that he was going to Egypt to participate in a seminar on investments being organised in Cairo by the Egyptian committee on investments which has invited delegations from various Arab countries to brief them on the possibilities of investments in Egypt and the facilities provided by the Egyptian government in this respect.

Al Saqer added that he will hold talks with Egyptian authorities whom he had discussed during his visit to Egypt last year and added that in several areas the decisions have to be taken to translate proposals into realities.

Relations
Referring to the existing investment opportunities in Egypt, he said that agreements have to be concluded and necessary steps taken to promote investment cooperation between the two countries.

He described as "excellent" the relations between Kuwait and Egypt and said that Egypt has now entered into a positive stage where it was trying to face competition and promote its exports to the Arab countries particularly the Arab Gulf states.

The talks, aimed at shoring up weak world prices, ended in deadlock early this morning. International Cocoa Organisation (Icoco) delegates said.

Problem
The impasse between major producers and consumers on the price, their cocoa pact should defend, will paralyse the organisation's capacity to try to shore up sagging prices, currently at their lowest for over five years at around £940 per tonne, the delegates said.

The cocoa pact is now formally in dispute, consumer spokesman Peter Baron of West Germany said. "This probably means a weakening of the agreement."

Seven consumers — the Soviet Union, Britain, Japan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and East Germany — invoked the formal dispute procedure, he added.

The Icco council will try to solve the problem in September. A five-member advisory panel of experts will be elected in June and will make non-binding recommendations on the dispute to the September meeting.

The two-week talks were aimed at establishing a scheme to withhold 120,000 tonnes of cocoa from the glutted world market.

But discussions reached a stalemate because of irreconcilable differences between producers and consumers on interpretation of the text of the cocoa agreement.

Consumers wanted to reduce the existing price range, while producers saw no justification in the cocoa pact rules for any cut and refused to negotiate.

Pact
Without an agreed price to defend, consumers said the withholding scheme could not operate.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRAD
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-GULF BANK	0.350	0.360	0.360	0.360	120000	10
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.246	0.248	0.248	0.246	300000	5
-AHLI BANK	0.300	----	----	----	----	----
-B.K.M.E	0.320	----	----	----	----	----
-K.R.E.B.	0.400	----	----	----	----	----
-BURGAN BANK	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	100000	3
-K.F.HOUSE	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	120000	5
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
-KUT INV. CO.	0.204	0.194	0.194	0.194	60000	3
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	----	----	----	----	----
-K.I.I.C.	0.164	0.164	0.166	0.162	140000	5
-COM.FACILITIES	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.425	10000	1
-AHLIAH INV.	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
-I.F.A.	0.106	----	----	----	----	----
-INV. PEARL KUT	0.106	----	----	----	----	----
INSURANCE SECTOR						
-KUT INSURANCE	0.710	----	----	----	----	----
-GULF INSURANCE	0.370	----	----	----	----	----
-AHLIAH INS. CO.	0.630	0.640	0.640	0.630	10000	2
-WARBA INS. CO.	0.490	0.485	0.485	0.485	30000	1
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
-KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.240	----	----	----	----	----
-UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.118	0.120	0.120	0.118	200000	6
-NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.228	----	----	----	----	----
-SALHAH R.E.	0.075	----	----	----	----	----
-KUT PROJECTS	0.091	----	----	----	----	----
-KUT R.E.I. CON	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
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-KUT N.P. IND.	0.320	----	----	----	----	----
-KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238	----	----	----	----	----
-REF. IND. CO.	0.385	----	----	----	----	----
-N.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	----	----	----	----	----
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-P.WAREHOUSING	0.150	----	----	----	----	----
-COM.MKT. CHMPX.	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	320000	3
-MOBILE TELE.	0.380	0.375	0.375	0.375	150000	8
-KUT COMPUTER	0.198	0.194	0.194	0.194	20000	1
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-UNIT FISHERIES	0.140	----	----	----	----	----
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-AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150	----	----	----	----	----
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-BHN.N.EAST.BK	0.047	----	----	----	----	----
-UNITD. GULF BK	0.050	----	----	----	----	----
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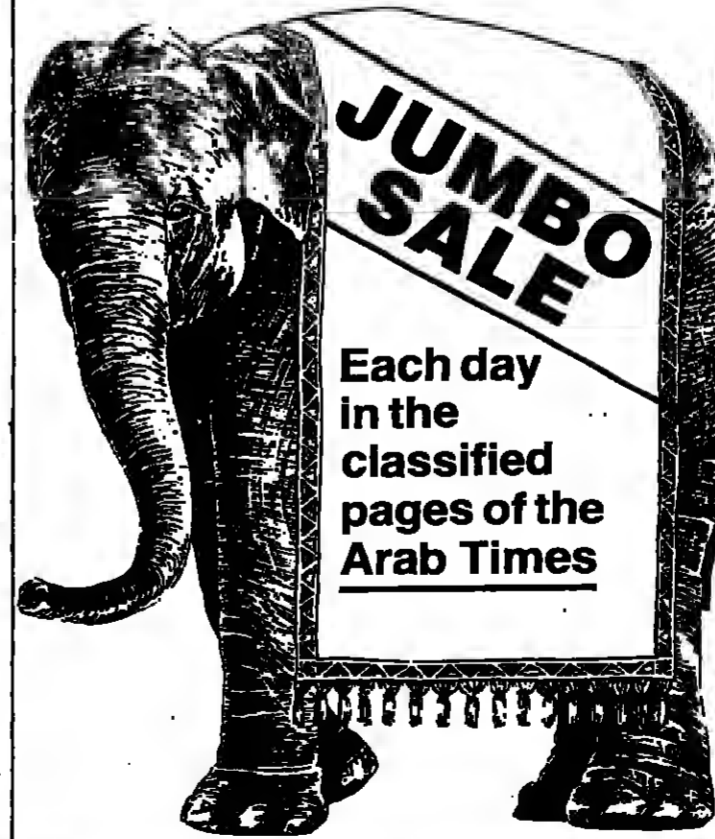
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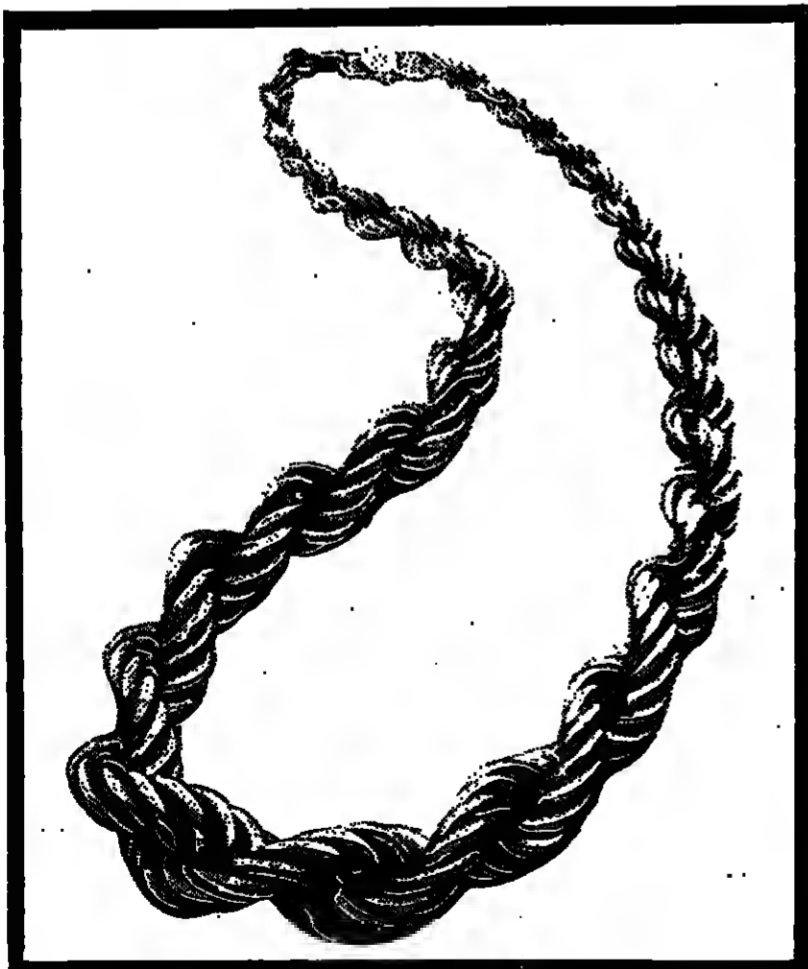
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Six-way tie for PGA lead

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., March 12, (Reuters): Six players were jammed together for the lead at 137 after the second round of the \$700,000 Coral Springs Classic PGA tournament yesterday.

Ken Brown of Britain and Tommy Nakajima of Japan were part of the Logjam at the top as they were tied with Americans Ed Fiori, Jodie Mudd, Dan Friesman and Fred Wadsworth.

Sandy Lyle of Britain came within a stroke of the eagle trace course record as he bogeyed the final hole for an eight-under-par 64. He finished at six-under-par 138 and was tied with Americans Joey Sindelar and Tim Byrum.

While the windy, wet weather was atrocious on Thursday, it was pleasant yesterday with mostly sunny skies and a gentle breeze. As a result, the scores were considerably lower.

Brown had five birdies and a long bogey for his four-under-par 68 yesterday. Nakajima had five birdies and no bogeys for a 67.

"I believe the 69 I had yesterday was better than 68 today," Brown said. "The last few rounds, I've started to get my shirt game together, but I've been playing very well from tee-to-green all year."

Excellent Nakajima credited a consistent driver with very good iron play for his excellent round.

"I missed many birdie chances, too," he said. "Maybe better tomorrow, I hope."

Fiori, Forsman and Mudd all had 67s while Wadsworth had a 68. Forsman birdied four of the last five holes.

"I had some good chances on the front side," he said. "But I took advantage of them right at the end of the round."

Lyle opened the week with a two-under-par 74 on Thursday. Yesterday, he had four birdies on the front side and then birdied five of the first eight holes on the back before a poor drive cost him a bogey at the 18th. The course record is 63, set by Fred Couples in 1985.

"I was aware of it when I was playing the last," Lyle said. "I thought I hit a good drive there in the fairway, but it just bounced in the rough and I didn't have a good lie. It was in tall grass by the edge of a bunker."

He hit that bunker on his next shot, blasted onto the green and two putted from 10 feet.

Eide takes Norway past Netherlands

SAPPORO, Japan, March 12, (AP): Patrik Eide scored two goals in the third period, powering Norway to a 5-1 victory over the Netherlands on the opening day of the '88 World Junior Ice Hockey World B Championships.

The Netherlands' only goal by Michel Tuyst came in the first period.

In the opening day game at the Tsukisamu gymnasium, France Marc and Bataille Reynold each scored in the first period and Margerit Bruon added one goal in the third period as France beat Austria 3-1.

Perthaler Christian scored one goal in the third period for Austria.

Move

At Yukiurushi skate centre, Romania, behind a tight defence, scored three goals in the first period, going on to edge Japan 3-2.

Skaters under 20 years of age from Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Romania and Yugoslavia are taking part in the championships. The winner of the nine-day round-robin championships will move into the A group.

The A group consists of the United States, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Poland, Switzerland, Canada and the Soviet Union.

In today's final game, Switzerland, which tumbled from a group last season, defeated Yugoslavia 6-5.

Holland meets Austria and Japan takes no Yugoslavia tomorrow.

Asian Games

NEW DELHI, March 12, (Xinhua): India has identified 13 sports disciplines to make concerted efforts to reach the entry criteria for the 1990 Asian Games, Narasimha Rao, Minister of Indian Human Resources Development said.

Rao told Parliament that provision has also been made for sports persons from other disciplines who may show the requisite performance during the intervening period until the final selection in early 1990.

Meanwhile, the Indian government has formulated new guidelines effective from this month to promote excellence in sports in the country, Rao said.

BROAD TAKES MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD

England crush New Zealand to go two up

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, March 12, (Reuters): England went two up in the four match one-day series against New Zealand when they won the second match at Lancaster Park by six wickets today.

England scored 188 for four and won with two overs and one ball to spare.

New Zealand batted first scoring 186 for eight wickets after England won the toss and captain Mike Gatting sent the home side in.

Reduced

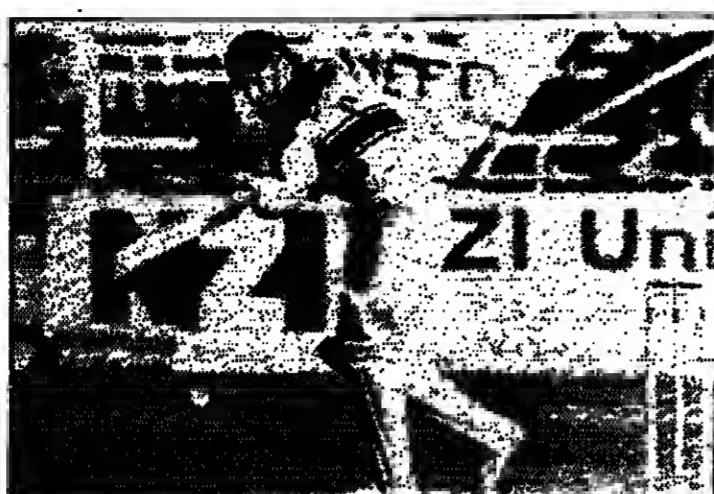
The match eventually played in bright, sunny conditions, was reduced to a 45 over match after rain delayed the start.

The New Zealand score never looked large enough and the England win was comprehensive. They were superior in all aspects of the game.

England's response was led by Chris Broad who scored a breezy 56. The in-form left-hander was dropped three times before he was eventually not caught by Keo Rutherford, bowled by Mario Soedden.

Other useful contributions by Tim Robinson and Mike Gatting ensured England could cruise to a comfortable victory.

The win was set up by England's bowlers when, with the exception of Phillip DeFreitas,



Robinson in action on his way to scoring 44. (Reuters wirephoto)

bowled a tidy line and picked up wickets regularly. DeFreitas went for 53 runs in his nine overs.

The bowlers were backed up by some fine fielding. The fielders took three run outs as the New Zealanders attempted a series of suicidal runs in a desperate effort to lift their lagging run rate.

The New Zealand innings got off to a brisk start, with captain John Wright lifting DeFreitas over the square leg boundary early on, but when they lost the wickets of John Reid and Mario Soedden in the fifth and seventh overs, the innings over

recovered. There was some spirited batting at the end of the innings from Chris Kugeleijn, John Bracewell and Ian Smith which gave the score some respectability, but the score was 25 runs short of a challenging target on the easy-paced pitch.

A spate of dropped catches in the England innings ensured that what chance New Zealand had of winning the game was not grasped.

In contrast to the sharp England fielding, the Kiwis grassed at least six chances.

Broad and Martyn Moxon got



Moxon hits out during his innings of 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

the England innings away to a good start, keeping up with the required run-rate from the first few overs. Then when Moxon was caught by Kugeleijn off

Willie Watson's bowling, Broad and Robinson made the game safe in a partnership of 75.

Broad won the Man of the Match award.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND innings:

R. Reid c Broad b Capel	8
J. Wright c DeFreitas b Embury	43
M. Crowe c French b DeFreitas	2
M. Greatbatch run out	15
K. Rutherford run out	5
C. Kugeleijn b Embury	40
J. Bracewell run out	43
I. Smith c Fairbrother b Embury	19
M. Soedden not out	1
W. Watson not out	2
Extras (lb-5 w-3)	8
Total for eight wickets	186
Overs: 45	
Fall of wickets: 1-24 2-26 3-53 4-68 5-86 6-149 7-183 8-183	

Did not bat: E. Chatfield

Bowling: DeFreitas 9-0-53-1 (2w) Capel 9-3-27-1 Jarvis 9-0-33-0 Radford 9-0-30-0 (1w) Embury 9-1-38-3

ENGLAND innings:

C. Broad c Rutherford b Soedden	56
M. Moxon c Kugeleijn b Watson	17
T. Robinson c Chatfield b Rutherford	44
M. Gatting b Watson	33
N. Fairbrother not out	25
D. Capel not out	6
Extras (lb-4 w-3)	7
Total for four wickets	188
Overs: 42.5	
Fall of wickets: 1-37 2-112 3-151 4-167	

Did not bat: J. Embury, B. French, P. DeFreitas, P. Jarvis, N. Radford

Bowling: Watson 9-1-31-2 Chatfield 7-0-32-0 Soedden 9-0-33-1 Bracewell 5-0-28-0 Kugeleijn 6-0-31-0 (2w) Rutherford 6-5-0-29-1 (1w)

Pate and Berger put up a fight

Mecir to face Chesnokov in final



Mecir sends a return to Pate

ORLANDO, Fla., March 12, (Reuters): Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union advanced yesterday in the \$415,000 Orlando Classic men's tennis tournament and will meet in the final.

Mecir defeated American David Pate 7-6 5-7 6-0 and Chesnokov beat American Jay Berger 3-6 6-2 6-1.

Deception

Mecir took advantage of his chances, especially in the third set as he played with all the deception for which he has been known, while Pate found it difficult to find his rhythm on his serve.

"It is important to return his serve and break it," said Mecir, then number two and only remaining seed. "When he holds serve, he makes better shots and gets confidence. His game is dangerous."

After the closeness of the first two sets when there were exchanges of service breaks, Pate expressed surprise at how easily the third set finished and he blamed it on his serve and by playing too

defensively.

"Once he was no longer rolled over me," said Pate. "You need a weapon against him and I wasn't hurting him. So, he could do anything. It was a tough match for me and he took me to the cleaners."

Mecir's baseline game makes him a counter puncher and his disguised passing shots made it difficult for Pate to read. Pate was trying to be patient with his game, but Mecir would take the ball early and return it accurately.

Chesnokov, after losing the first set, rallied back by playing superb ground strokes that had Berger running from side to side.

Accurate

"I started hitting the ball harder after the first set," said Chesnokov. "I thought he was getting a bit tired and I was getting stronger."

Chesnokov waited for the right moment during the match to leave the baseline from where he exchanged rallies with Berger and approached the net where he executed accurate volleys.

Ferrari leads for 4th time in Formula One tyre tests

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 12, (Reuters): Italian Michele Alboreto yesterday set the pace in the fifth day of Formula One tyre tests, the fourth day that the Ferrari team dominated the tests at the 5.031-km Jacarepagua race track.

Alboreto, fastest on the first day, clocked nine minutes, 29.57 seconds, slightly better than reigning world champion Brazilian Nelson Piquet, second at 1:29.65 in his new Lotus.

Brazilian Ayrton Senna, was third at 1:30.86 for his best performance of the week with his new McLaren team.

Good

Riccardo Patrese, in a Williams, was fourth at 1:30.97, followed by British teammate Nigel Mansell at 1:31.17.

"It was a good week for us. I think we had a good chance this year in Rio," Alboreto said.

The Brazilian Grand Prix, set for April 3, will open the 1988 Formula One season.

Alboreto said the McLaren team would be Ferrari's toughest opponent for next month's Grand Prix.

His Austrian teammate, Gerhard Berger, who set the fastest

times on Wednesday and Thursday, was out on impressive yesterday, clocking 1:31.62. But Berger's time on Thursday (1:28.05) remains the fastest of the tests so far.

The McLaren, Lotus, Williams, Minardi and Arrows were still due to continue testing their tyres today. The Ferrari and Benetton teams have already returned home.

"I'm still getting adapted to the car but I think it worked reasonably well this time. Much better than on Monday," Senna told reporters, while signing autographs in a queue of young Brazilian admirers.

His teammate, former world champion Alain Prost, of France, did not practice yesterday.

"Nothing worked well for me. Fortunately, for the team, Ayrton had a good day and the car showed some progress. With me, however, it was bad, because the engine failed and there was also a problem with the pop-off valve," Prost said.

Despite reports that the drivers were not happy with the Jacarepagua track, Piquet, Senna and Prost said it was in good condition for the race.

Pumas to meet French in Tests

BUENOS AIRES, March 12, (Reuters): The Argentine Pumas will face France in a two-test series on June 18 and 25 during a South American tour by the runners-up in the 1986 World Cup, the Argentine Rugby Union (UAR) said.

The UAR on Thursday night announced the itinerary for the eight-match French tour. It also said the New Zealand Maori and Belgium would tour Argentina later in the year.

The Pumas, who drew Test series with the French in Buenos Aires in 1985 and 1986, will tour France in October and November.

Belgium will play seven matches in Argentina in August and September, while the Maori will make a three-match tour in November.



Mansell (2nd right) and Patrese talk to technicians before the tests. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graf routs Paradis for semifinals

BOCA RATON, Florida, March 12, (UPI): Steffi Graf of West Germany defeated unseeded Pascale Paradis of France, 6-1, 6-2, in 50 minutes last night in advance to the semifinals of the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Florida tournament.

Graf, the No. 1 seed in the tournament and No. 1 player in the world, joined No. 2 seed Chris Evert, No. 3 seed Pam Shriver and No. 4 seed Gabriela Sabatini, in the semifinals.

"It's the best I played in two weeks," said Graf. "It was almost perfect tennis."

Paradis, ranked 82nd in the world and who gained the quarterfinals by upsetting eighth-seeded Raffaella Reggi of Italy Thursday, reached defeat only once, losing a 12-point service

game.

Graf put together two five-game victory streaks, losing only eight points in each. In today's semifinals Graf was to meet Shriver and Evert was to face Sabatini.

Evert, ranked third in the world, defeated seventh-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy, in 67 minutes, 6-1, 6-0. Cecchini, ranked 16th in the world, beat Evert in the 1986 Federation Cup.

Shriver, fourth in world rankings, struggled two hours before beating unseeded Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5. Fernandez, 40th in the world, won the first set in 20 minutes.

Seventeen-year-old Sabatini, No. 5 in the world, defeated 11th-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3. Fernandez, a 16-year-old high school junior, is ranked

22nd in the world.

Evert's only problem during her match occurred in the fifth game when she lost her serve. Evert then won the last eight games, allowing just five points in the last five.

Gigi Fernandez, who served for the match to the 10th game of the third set, said: "If I had won, it would have been my best win ever."

"She played great tennis, better than I did," said Shriver. "If she played all the time the way she played today, she could be No. 1 in the world."

Sabatini was challenged through the first set by Mary Joe Fernandez, who held a set point, 6-5, in the tiebreaker. She lost the chance with a backhand error and Sabatini won the next two points and the set.

Manny captures PBAK Open Bowling title



Manny with his PBAK trophy.

MANNY Inserto, of the Philippines, rolled a total of 610 pinfalls to three games to lift the first PBAK Cup Open Bowling title at the 300 Club on Friday.

Manny found his usual rhythm to register scores of 171, 236 and 203 in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd games respectively to finish ahead of the 110 bowlers who took part in this event.

Edwin Nepmucen, also from the Philippines, who topped the first group with a gross score of 596 finished in the 1st runner-up spot. Willy Sahay, winner of the Most Valuable Player award in the recently concluded Filipino Nann-pro Bowling League, had to settle for the 2nd runner-up position with a score of 580 pinfalls.



All the winners pictured together. Manny is 6th from left and Nitz Alinea 7th.

Other winners in the men's division were Jimmy Tadana (Philippines), Bong Pagutayao (Philippines), Bader Al Shaheen (Kuwait), Nashat Mohammed (Palestine), Ryan Abdan (Philippines), Arthur Reyes (Philippines) and Victor Chanog (Malaysia).

In the women's division, Filipina Nitz Alinea took the

Women's Open Cup with a total of 543 while Lynne Reyes (497) came second and Eva Sabay (493) third.

Other winners in the women's division were Amy Abdan and Cora Paras, both from the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) has announced more

competitions for the coming months. All the tournaments will be for both men and women. The Handicap event has been scheduled for April 8, Grandmasters on May 6 and 12 and the Marathon on June 3.

Manny Inserto, who is also the president of the PBAK, awarded the prizes to all the winners at the end of the tournament.

Lora to defend WBC crown

BOGOTA, March 12, (Reuters): World Boxing Council bantamweight champion Miguel 'Happy' Lora of Colombia has said he will defend his title against Argentina's Lucio 'Metralleta' Lopez in Cartagena, Colombia, on April 30.

Lora told a local radio station that all previous financial problems had been overcome and that on Thursday he had received a guarantee for his purse, estimated at \$94,000.

The 12-round fight, organised by promoter Juhan Guerrero, will take place in Cartagena's bull ring.

"Everything is now fixed and I will continue my training for the fight," said Lora, who won the title two and 1/2 years ago and has successfully defended it five times.

S. Australia crush Tasmania

ADELAIDE, Australia, March 12, (Reuters): South Australian captain David Hookes has set his sights on consecutive McDonald's one-day cricket cups after his side romped to a seven-wicket victory over Tasmania today.

South Australia, needing 194 to win an innings shortened to 44 overs because of rain, reached the target with seven wickets and 17 deliveries to spare.

Tasmania had scored 220 for eight off 50 overs.

Paris-Dakar rally reduced to 15 days

PARIS, March 12, (Reuters): The Paris-Dakar rally will be reduced from 22 days to 15 and the start will be brought forward, the International Motor Sport Federation (Fisa) announced yesterday.

Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre said the length of the controversial rally, in which six people died this year, was "unacceptable."

He said the rally must begin on December 27 each year at the latest, instead of the traditional January 1 departure date, to avoid overlapping with the Monte Carlo rally.

Balestre said he had asked the organisers of the Monte Carlo rally, which was to begin on January 12 next year, to delay the start until January 19 to leave more time between the two events.

Paris-Dakar organiser Gilbert Sabine later criticised Balestre in a radio interview.

"Balestre wants to kill the Paris-Dakar rally," he told the RTL network. "I will fight this decision to the end, but if we don't obtain satisfaction the Paris-Dakar rally will be abolished."

"It is impossible to organise the event over 15 days as Balestre knows fully well," he added.

This year's 10th running of the rally took competitors over 13,000 km of difficult and sometimes uncharted terrain.

Fisa also announced yesterday that it would introduce a new 'silhouette' class series of World Championship races in the motor racing calendar in 1990.

The class will be for ordinary road-going vehicles with unmodified bodywork, but fitted with 3.5 litre normally-aspirated engines as used by Formula One Grand Prix cars.

The new series will include between eight and 12 races each year. Fisa secretary-general Yvon Leon told a press conference yesterday.

Only cars which have been mass-produced — with a minimum number of 25,000 vehicles built — can be entered.

Fisa officials said 12 manufacturers had expressed interest in taking part in the new series.

Olsson stuns Zhiheng in quarterfinals

MALMO, Sweden, March 12, (Reuters): Swedish champion Jens Olsson unexpectedly beat second seed Liu Zhiheng of China to claim a place in the last four of the Swedish Open Badminton Championships yesterday.

Olsson won 15-10 12-15 10-15 to clinch his place in the semifinals where he was to meet Denmark's Nils Skehy today. Olsson, 23, from Gothenburg, was ranked only at number five in Sweden before winning the oatmeal championships last month.

Skehy came back from behind against Swede Ulf Johansson to triumph 12-15 15-9 15-11 in his quarterfinal.

Another Swede, Peter Axelsson, created an upset when he knocked out Lau Wing Cheok of Singapore 18-16 17-14 in a tight third round clash.

Results

Results in the Swedish Open Badminton Championships (Sweden unless stated):

Men's singles third round: 1-Xiong Guobao (China) beat Jens Melbom (Denmark) 15-9 15-7, 5/8-Claus Thomsen (Denmark) beat Mikael Rosen 15-4 15-3, Peter Axelsson beat 3/4-Lau Wing Cheok (China) 18-16 17-14, Jorgen Tuvesson beat 5/8-Vimal Kumar (India) 12-15 15-10 15-6, Nils Skehy (Denmark) beat Carsten Wolfgang (Denmark) 15-2 15-7, 3/4-Ulf Johansson beat Hamid Kahn (Singapore) 15-8 15-7, Jens Olsson beat 5/8-Syed Modi (India) 15-7 15-3, 2-Liu Zhiheng (China) beat Lars Petersen (Denmark) 15-6 15-2.

Men's singles quarterfinals: Xiong beat Thomsen 15-8 15-4, Tuvesson beat Axelsson 15-10 14-18 15-3, Skehy beat Johansson 12-15 15-9 15-11, Olsson beat Liu 15-10 12-15 15-10.

Women's singles second round: 1-Han Aiping beat Sarah Hore (Britain) 11-4 11-5, 5/8-Elise Coene (Netherlands) beat Charlotta Wahlberg 11-5 11-3, 3/4-Qian Ping (China) beat Erica van Diek (Netherlands) 12-9 11-4, 5/8-Christine Magnusson beat Haruko Yachi (Japan) 11-5 11-5, Amy Chan (Hong Kong) beat 5/8-Lisbeth Stuer-Lauridsen (Denmark) 9-11 12-11 11-8, 3/4-Gu Jianming (China) beat Astrid van der Knaap (Netherlands) 11-6 11-3, 5/8-Helen Troke (Britain) beat Lotte Olsen (Denmark) 12-9 11-1, 2-Zheng Yuli (China) beat Hiromi Tsukiko (Japan) 11-2 11-3.

Women's singles quarterfinals: Han beat Coene 11-5 11-6, Magnusson beat Qian 12-9 12-10, Gu beat Chan 11-1 11-5, Zheng beat Troke 4-11 11-6 11-2.

SPORTS

WIMBLEDON FIGHT BACK TO BEAT WATFORD

Forest tame Arsenal for semifinals

LONDON, March 12, (Reuters): Goals by Paul Wilkinson and Brian Rice carried Nottingham Forest into the semifinals of the English FA Cup today and broke the biggest jinx of manager Brian Clough's illustrious career.

Their strikes in the 42nd and 73rd minutes earned Forest a 2-1 win over Arsenal and took Clough beyond the sixth round of the competition for the first time in 32 years as a player and manager.

While Arsenal's hopes of appearing in two finals this season were buried at Highbury, Luton, their opponents in the League Cup final next month, continued their remarkable run of success in Cup competitions with a 3-1 quarterfinal win over Portsmouth.

Remained
Having booked three appearances at Wembley stadium already this season, Luton remained on course for a fourth by scoring twice in the opening 22 minutes.

Wimbledon staged a remarkable comeback against Watford to book their place in the last four with a 2-1 victory. Already 1-0 down to a Malcolm Allen goal, their fourth in the competition this season — they had defender Brian Gayle sent off a minute before halftime for throwing a punch at Allo.

Unadvised, they stormed back with goals from substitute Eric Young after 48 minutes and John Fashanu, his 19th of the season, in the 73rd.

Runaway First Division leaders Liverpool meet Manchester City away in their sixth-round tie tomorrow.

Glasgow Celtic, like Liverpool bidding for a League and Cup double, cruised into the semifinals of the Scottish Cup with a 3-0 away win over First Division Partick Thistle.

Arsenal, boasting a run of seven successive wins, must have fancied their chances of avenging



Fashanu: got his 19th goal of the season

a 2-0 home League defeat by Forest earlier in the season.

But they always had their backs to the wall after losing key central defender David O'Leary with a recurrence of Achilles tendon trouble in the 36th minute.

Six minutes later Forest were ahead. Brian Clough's son, Nigel, set up Wilkinson and he swept a sweet right-footer in off the left-hand post.

Arsenal battled back gamely in the second half, but Forest gave nothing away at the back and Scotsman Rice's goal made his manager's day. David Rocastle scored a consolation goal for the Gunners two minutes from time.

Arsenal could well have done with some of Mick Harford's aerial power. The tall, bustling striker had a hand in all of Luton's goals.

season. He scored his 22nd and 23rd goals of the season for Manchester United in the 4-1 First Division win over Sheffield Wednesday.

United, who never looked back after scoring twice in the first seven minutes, strengthened their position as nearest challengers to Liverpool but remain a distant 14 points behind.

Everton leapfrogged above Forest into third place with a 0-0 draw at Chelsea, the London club's 17th League game without a win.

Another London side, Charlton, boasted their hopes of avoiding relegation with a 3-0 win over West Ham. Garth Crooks' second goal in the match was Charlton's 1000th in the First Division.

Celtic's march towards another League and Cup double never looked like being checked by Partick after Andy Walker had fired the Premier League leaders ahead in the seventh minute. Second half goals followed from Tommy Burns and Billy Stark.

David Dodds hit a hat-trick in Aberdeen's 5-0 quarterfinal win over Clyde and Hearts were equally emphatic winners over Dunfermline, surprise co-quaranters of European Cup quarterfinalists Glasgow Rangers in the last round.

Results

English Football Association (FA) Cup quarterfinals	
Arsenal	1
Luton	3
Wimbledon	2
Watford	1
Playing tomorrow: Manchester City v Liverpool	
English Division One	
Charlton	3
West Ham	0
Chelsea	0
Everton	0
Manchester U	4
Sheffield Wed	1
Southampton	1
Coventry	2
Tottenham	1
Norwich	3
Postponed: Liverpool v Wimbledon, Luton v Portsmouth, Newcastle v Watford, Nottingham Forest v Derby, Oxford v Arsenal	
English Division Two	
Aston Villa	1
Leeds	2

Barnsley	1
Blackburn	1
Blackpool	1
Bradford	4
Sheff Wed	2
Sheff Utd	1
Middlesbrough	2
Huddersfield	0
Millwall	1
Crystal P	3
Oxford	4
Swindon	1
Plymouth	3
Stoke	0
Reading	1
Birmingham	1
Postponed: Sheffield United v Manchester City	
English Division Three	
Blackpool	3
Aldershot	2
Bury	0
Walsley	1
Gillingham	0
Grimsby	1
Chesham	1
Mansfield	1
Nottingham	1
Port Vale	3
Preston	2
Wigan	2
Sunderland	2
York	1
Fulham	2
Doncaster	2
Chesham	2
Northampton	0
Rotherham	0
Southend	2
Bristol C	0

English Division Four	
Exeter	1
Scarborough	0
Halifax	2
Scunthorpe	0
Hartlepool	2
Barnsley	1
Leyton Orient	0
Colchester	0
Newport	0
Cambridge U	0
Peterborough	0
Stockport	0
Rochdale	0
Tranmere	0
Wolves	3
Cardiff	1
Wrexham	1
Swansea	2
Bolton	1
Darlington	1
Crewe	0
Torquay	1
Playing tomorrow: Hereford v Cardiff	
Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup quarterfinals	
Aberdeen	5
Clyde	0
Dundee	0
Dundee U	0
Hearts	3
Dunfermline	0
Partick	0
Celtic	3
Scottish Premier Division	
Falkirk	1
Hibernian	0
Rangers	1
Motherwell	0
Postponed: Aberdeen v Celtic, Dundee United v St Mirren, Hearts v Dundee, Morton v Dunfermline	
Scottish Division One	
East Fife	4
Forfar	0
Hamilton	1
Queen of S	2
Kilmarnock	2
Clydebank	2
Meadowbank	3
Raith	0
Postponed: Clyde v Airdrieonians, Dumbarton v Partick	
Scottish Division Two	
Albion	1
Brechin	5
Abernethy	1
Queen's Park	2
Cowdenbeath	0
Eirings	0
Moorpark	1
Ayr	0
Stenhousemuir	0
Alloa	0
Stirling	2
Bervick	0
Sirraiser	1
St Johnstone	3



● Franz Heinzer of Switzerland takes to the air on his way to victory in the World Cup men's downhill at Beaver Creek, Colorado, on Friday. Heinzer finished with a time of 2:29.32. (Reuter wirephoto)

Martin sends Devoy out of French Open

PARIS, March 12, (Reuters): Australian Michelle Martin pulled off an unexpected win yesterday when she beat world champion Susan Devoy of New Zealand in the quarterfinals of the French Open Squash Championships.

Martin, 20, matched Devoy in all areas of her game as she swept in a 11-15 17-15 13-15 15-10 victory in front of a packed gallery.

Tactically clever, she kept the rallies away from the front court and often drilled the ball to the back as she met Devoy's attacking play.

For Devoy, it was a major disappointment following her defeat last week in Switzerland. She said: "I have not been playing very well recently, but today I was beaten by a better player."

Men's world champion Jansher Khan was briefly in danger of going under in another member of the Martin family, Michelle's brother Rodney, but snatched victory 15-13 10-15 17-15 15-7 after winning the third-game tiebreaker.

Jansher Khan, seeded to meet Jansher in an all-Pakistan final, also reached the semifinals by beating another Australian, Chris Robertson, 17-16 15-3 15-8.

Jahangir, who lost his number-one ranking to Jansher at the start of the year, believes the American scoring used in this event will be in his favour should he meet the world champion in tomorrow's final.

Results

Quarterfinal results in the French Open Squash Championships (prefix number denotes seeding):

3-Chris Dittmar (Australia) beat Del Harris (Britain) 15-10 15-9 15-6.

4-Russ Norman (New Zealand) beat Umar Hayat Khan (Pakistan) 7-15 15-11 15-10 15-12.

3-Martine Le Mignao (Britain) beat 5-Lucy Sutcliffe (Britain) walkover.

2-Lisa Opie (Britain) beat Rebecca Best (Ireland) 15-7 15-11 15-9 15-15.

4-Liz Irving (Australia) beat 6-Alison Cumings (Britain) 11-15 15-8 15-8 15-4.

1-Jansher Khan (Pakistan) beat 5-Rodney Martin (Australia) 15-13 10-15 17-15 15-7.

2-Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat 6-Chris Robertson (Australia) 17-16 15-3 15-8.

Michelle Martin (Australia) beat 1-Susan Devoy (New Zealand) 11-15 17-15 13-15 15-10.

Bayern edge Borussia to narrow gap

BONN, March 12, (Reuters): Bayern Munich, seeking to shake off recent disappointments in the European and West German Cup competitions, narrowed the gap at the top of the League with an undesired 1-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach today.

Bayern gained ground on leaders Werder Bremen who suffered only their second defeat of the season and their first in six months, going down 1-0 at Stuttgart through a 73rd-minute goal by the First Division's joint top scorer Fritz Walter.

Werder had goalkeeper Oliver Reck sent off two minutes later when he charged into his penalty area to trip winger Juergen Klinsmann.

The northers, who until the last 20 minutes had enjoyed the better of the game, have now seen their lead cut in two points, though they still have their sights set on a treble. West German Cup semifinals, Werder held a 1-0 lead over Verona in Italy in the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup.

Deccan Blues beat Premier



Akhilesh: scored 77

DECCAN Blues defeated Premier Cricket Club by 65 runs in a friendly match at the Reggi grounds on Friday.

After being put into bat, Deccan Blues scored 171 for the loss of six wickets in the 25 allotted overs. Akhilesh, the opener, scored 77 runs while Hafeez hit 20, Shetty 24 and Mumtaz 16.

For Premier, Victor took three wickets while Daniel captured two and Sabi one.

Resch
Premier were in trouble from the start and could only muster 106 runs for the loss of six wickets. Riaz and Savin with 22 runs each were the only batsmen to reach the double figures.

Gopinath took three wickets for Deccan Blues while Muzaffar got two and Hafeez and Mumtaz one each.

Coe finishes behind Passey in 3,000 metres

Campbell beats Foster in 60m hurdles

WOLVERHAMPTON, England, March 12, (Reuters): World indoor champion Tonic Campbell just beat world high hurdles gold medalist Greg Foster in the 60-metre hurdles for an impressive US success in the annual men's indoor athletics match against England today.

Campbell recorded a time of 7.60 seconds, one hundredth of a second ahead of his great rival. In a second 60-metre hurdles which was not part of the match, Foster gained a measure of revenge by beating Campbell into second place.

Campbell's performance helped his country in a narrow 76-74 points win over England, victory coming only when the United States won the last race of the day, the 4x100 metres relay.

The 5,000 crowd had suffered an earlier disappointment when Olympic champion Sebastian Coe was heavily defeated by British teammate Adrian Passey who won the 3,000 metres by almost eight seconds.

Coe, aiming for a third successive Olympic 1,500 metres title in Seoul later this year, was in contention for half the race, but his lack of sharpness showed clearly as Passey gradually eased away

in the closing stages to win in seven minutes 57.84 seconds.

"I just felt I didn't have a lot of zip or sparkle today," said Coe, who finished second. "There's a great deal of work to do between now and the Olympics. It's a steep mountain...but I've done it twice before in the past."

Britain's Linford Christie won the 200 metres in 20.95 seconds, a British all-comers record, beating American Olympic 200 metres bronze medalist Thomas Jefferson into second place.

Jefferson had earlier been pipped by teammate Emmitt Kiog in the 60 metres sprint.

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Coe: defeated

Madjer signs for Italian club

ROME, March 12, (Reuters): Algerian striker Rabah Madjer has signed for Internazionale Milan of Italy despite a preliminary agreement to move to West Germany's soccer champions Bayern Munich, an Italian sports newspaper reported today.

Corriere Della Sport said Madjer and officials of his Portuguese club Porto met Inter envoys in sign the two-year deal yesterday in Spain, where the 29-year-old Algerian is no longer available.

For comment on the report, which said the deal was worth 3.1 billion lire (\$2.5 million) to Porto and 750 million lire (\$600,000) a season to Madjer.

Madjer, who scored for Porto when they beat Bayern in last year's European Cup final, signed a preliminary agreement last December to move to Munich next season.

Corriere Della Sport said that agreement was invalid since it did not have Porto's consent but in West Germany, Bayern President Fritz Scherer said:

"We have a legal contract with Madjer. This has been confirmed by the European Football Union."

The newspaper said Inter Milan were holding back on announcing Madjer's contract for fear that it could jeopardise moves to sign Bayern international Lothar Matthaus.

Inter spokesman Valterio Niliari said recently that some details of Matthaus' transfer still had to be arranged but the club hoped to conclude a deal soon.

Kelly takes white jersey

PARIS, March 12, (Xinhua): Sean Kelly of Ireland, who was seeking for his seventh successive victory, took over the leading white jersey when he finished second yesterday in the fourth leg of the Paris-Nice cycling race.

Kelly came in second for the third consecutive day.

Eienne de Wilde of Belgium won the 171-kilometre fourth stage from Toulon in St Tropez in a sprint finish, clocking four hours 32 minutes 10 seconds.

There are two days remaining for the six-day series.

Six Group B cars to take part in Kuwait Rally

By Gail Seery

A TOTAL of forty seven drivers have entered this year's Kuwait International Rally, due to take place on March 17 & 18. Of these, forty hnd Kuwait licences, with other entrants visiting from UAE, Bahrain and Qatar.

Of these, only six will be competing in the powerful Group B cars that have dominated the sport for a number of years. These are, Manabbed Bin Sulayem, Saeed Al Hajri, Abbas Al Mousawi, Ahmed Al Zafiri, Michel Saleh and Mubarak Al Hajri. These cars are expected to be well ahead of the field at the end of the rally — those that survive the rigours of the event.

Tipped

All these drivers can be expected to put up a good show, but newcomer Mubarak Al Hajri, Saeed's 24-year-old brother, driving an Opel Manta, with his cousin Mubarak Al Hajri as navigator, is tipped for a good result, in this his first Kuwait Rally. The young driver came fourth in last month's Qatar rally.

Ahmed Al Hilal and Fahad Al

Rashed will be making their second outing of the season in the Group A Toyota Corolla. Hilal told the Arab Times that he is familiar with all the stages, as most are similar to stages used in the past. He sees the main problem as being the roughness of the stages on the first day.

"There are many bumps, and these are difficult for the car, particularly the suspension, gearbox and axle." Again, on the second day his car would be at a disadvantage as the stages suit the more powerful vehicles. "It's a disadvantage for me, but there are plenty for whom it's worse," he said.

List of entrants: Mohammed Bin Sulayem/Ronan Morgan, Tynyta Celica Turbo, UAE; Saeed Al Hajri/Steve Bond, Audi Quattro, QTR; Michel Saleh/tn, LBN; Mubarak Al Hajri/Mubarak Al Hajri, Opel Manta, QTR; Abbas Al Mousawi/George Sourian, Peugeot Talbot, QTR; Sultan Al Sowaidi/David Orricks, Toyota Celica, QTR; Khalifa Rashed/Hassan Sarhaa, Toyota Celica, BHN; Younis Ali/Waleed Al Zafiri, Lada 1600, KWT; Saeed Al/



Al Hilal: familiar with all the stages

Othman Hamder, Lada 1600, KWT; Ahmed Al Hilal/Fahad Al Rashed, Tynyta Corolla, KWT; Saeed Al Shamari/Ahmed Al Edressi, Datsun Silvia, KWT; Ali Al Birami/Mohd Zaid, Mitsubishi Lancer, KWT; Ahmed Al Nasser/Bader Al Zaidi, Lancer Turbo, KWT; Samir Al Hussein/Doukhi Al Dnukhi, Datsun 160J, KWT; Ali Al Edressi/Maslam Al Mutairi, Datsun 200SX, KWT; Sarkis Sourjian/Andre Sourjian, Tynyta Corolla, KWT; Hassan Al Hamad/Ahmed Al Hamdan, Mitsubishi Galant, KWT; Mahd Al Hussein/Ibrahim Al Mousa, Tynyta Corolla, KWT; Ahmed Al Mousa/Adnan

Al Awad, Toyota Celica, KWT; Awar Al Sayer/to be announced, Citroen Visa, KWT; Ibrahim Al Mousad/Talal Al Attar, Datsun 160J, KWT; Ahmed Al Mulla/Jasim Al Harhi, Holden, KWT; Josef Miskulung/Klaus Schwingshneig, Nissan 240RS, KWT; Mumtaz Shah/Margaret Callow, Toyota Celica, KWT; Faez Chihab/Hanan Chihab, Mitsubishi Lancer, KWT; Michael Allen/Marvin Phillips, Volvo 240, KWT; Lester Featherstonehaugh/Mike Allen, Volvo 240, KWT; Peter Freiseogert/to be announced, VW beetle, KWT; Khamees Al Khamees/Abdul Lateef, Datsun

180, KWT; Nuri Al Hasawi/Ahmed Al Shaheeo, Nissan Silvia, KWT; Fuad Al Aradi/Ajar Qutineh, Nissan GT, KWT; Abdul Razak Al Khamees/Sandi Al Rasheed, Hyundai Stellar, KWT; Jamal Marafi/Adnan Marafi, Nissan Patrol, KWT; Eid Alah/Sadeq Ashkaraai, Raoge Rnver, KWT; Mubarak Al Omair/Adnan Al Omair, Fiat Ritmo, KWT; Ghazi Al Zafiri, Saad Al Zafiri, Suzuki, KWT; Saad Al Murari/Mazak Delamey, Datsun Silvia, KWT; Mohammed Jarar/George Reyes, Tynyta Corolla, KWT; Abdulla Al Shuwaihe/Anwar Abu Jarwa, Mitsubishi Starion, KWT; Peer Horn/Marc Horn, Mazda 323, KWT; Khaled Al Shomari/to be announced, Suzuki jeep, KWT; Tareq Al Wazzan/Khaled Khalifa, Range Rover, KWT; Ahmed Al Zafiri/Abdul Rahman Al Shumari, Opel Ascona, KWT; Jasim Bin Hay/Haoi Ansari, Datsun 160J, KWT; Musaed Faraj/Mufeed Mubarak, Mazda RX7, KWT; Harry Carr/Jahn Gledhill, Mitsubishi Pajero, KWT; Tareq Al Alyan/Khuloud Al Alyan, Daihatsu Charade, KWT.

Commonwealth Games ended in £4m loss

ABERDEEN, Scotland, March 12, (AP): The 1986 Commonwealth Games, plagued by political and financial problems, wound up with a debt of £4 million (\$7.2 million), the man in charge of billing out the event says.

Robert Maxwell, the publishing magnate invited to run the Edinburgh Games at the last minute, said all debts were being paid with the help of a £2 million (\$3.6 million) donation from him and Japanese industrialist Ryoichi Sasakawa.

A legal dispute with the Commonwealth Games consortium had been settled and the event can close its books "with dignity and decorum," Maxwell said last night in an address to the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce.

"Friendly Games," ended with major suppliers claiming they had not been paid. The fund-raising consortium managed to raise £6.5 million (\$11.7 million) — about half of what was expected. At the end, the Games cost £15.6 million (\$28.1 million).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bahrain win

BAHRAIN beat Kuwait 1-0 in a 9th Gulf Football Tournament match in Saudi Arabia yesterday. This evening Qatar take on Iraq while United Arab Emirates face Saudi Arabia.

Caribbean team

ST JOHN'S Antigua, March 12, (Reuters): Antigua says it has received the support of the Leeward Islands Cricket Association (Lica) in its bid to play as a separate entity in regional Caribbean cricket.

Majorca Open

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain, March 12, (Reuters): Britain's Neil Hansen overtook favourite Severiano Ballesteros of Spain with a course record of under-par 66 in the second round of the Majorca Open golf tournament yesterday.

British stars

SYDNEY, Australia, March 12, (AP): British soccer stars Glenn Hoddle, Norman Whiteside and Mark Hughes have agreed to guest player stints with Australian National League club Wollongong City, the club said today.

Singapore golf

SINGAPORE, March 12, (Reuters): American Greg Bruckner fired a record-equaling five-under par 67 in surge to a two-stroke lead after the third round of the Singapore Open Golf championship today.

Nordic Games

FALUN, Sweden, March 12, (AP): Pierre Harvey of Canada, hitting top form at least two weeks too late, captured the 30-kilometre freestyle cross-country race at the Swedish Nordic Ski Games today. It was the second year in a row that the 30-year-old Canadian prevailed in the 30K at this annual World Cup meet.

Soccer thugs

LUTON, England, March 12, (AP): Authorities arrested 17 people and seized a cache of weapons early today in breaking up a gang of soccer thugs. The operations came hours before Luton hosted Portsmouth in a quarterfinal match of England's FA Cup. Police said they were trying to forestall any trouble between supporters of the two clubs.

IBF title

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, March 12, (Reuters): West German Gergiano Roccighiani won the vacant International Boxing Federation (IBF) super-middleweight title last night when he defeated stopped his bout with Vincent Boulware of the United States in the eighth round of their 15-round contest.

Title fight

PARIS, France, March 12, (UPI): World Boxing Council lightweight champion Jose Luis Ramirez of Mexico entered his second title defence this evening slightly heavier than American challenger Pernell Whitaker and just barely within the 61.237-kilogramme limit.